

## Present Perfect Tense: “I *have seen* that movie many times”

**Structure: S + have/has + V past participle + C**

This tense is called the **present** perfect tense. There is always a connection with the past and with the **present**. We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important.

**Important:** You CANNOT use the Present Perfect with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Mexico, at that moment, that day, one day, etc. We CAN use the Present Perfect with unspecific expressions such as: ever, never, once, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc.

It is best to associate Present Perfect with the following topics:

1. Experience
2. Change
3. Continuing situation

### Situation 1 Experience:

You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..." You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. The Present Perfect is NOT used to describe a specific event.

Examples:

- I **have been** to France.  
This sentence means that you have had the experience of being in France. Maybe you have been there once, or several times.
- I **have been** to France three times.  
You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.
- I **have never been** to France.  
This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.
- I think I **have seen** that movie before.
- Joan **has studied** two foreign languages.

## Situation 2 Change Over Time:

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

Examples:

- You **have grown** since the last time I saw you.
- The government **has become** more interested in arts education.
- I have broken a leg.
- I have bought a car.
- My English **has** really **improved** since I joined this class.

## Situation 3 Continuing Situation

We often use the present perfect tense to talk about a **continuing situation**. This is a something that started in the **past** and continues in the **present** (and will probably continue into the future). We usually use **for** or **since** with this structure.



Examples:

- I have worked here **since** June.
- He has been ill **for** 2 days.
- A: How long have you known Tara?  
B: I've known her **since** I was a kid
- I **have had** a cold **for** two weeks.
- She **has been** in England **for** six months.
- Mary **has loved** chocolate **since** she was a little girl.