

## The Present Perfect Simple #1

One of the most challenging grammatical tenses for learners of English is the *Present Perfect Simple*.

Think about these two sentences:

- a) I went to New York in 2018.
- b) I've been to Moscow.

Both are about the past – but what's the difference?

The first sentence is the *Past Simple*. It is about an event which happened in the past (New York) and the time is given (2018).

In this first sentence, both the event and the time are important, so that is why the speaker gives us both pieces of information.

The second sentence is the *Present Perfect Simple*. It is about an event in the past but the time is not given.

In this sentence, the focus is only on the event.

What the speaker is saying here is "*I have been to Moscow some time in my life*". It might be when they were 5 years old – 25 years old – 35 years old – last year..... We don't know.

Here are some more examples:

I saw Black Widow last Friday. (Past Simple)

I've seen Titanic eleven times. (Present Perfect Simple)

I ate pancakes for breakfast yesterday. (Past Simple)

I've eaten sushi many times. (Present Perfect Simple)

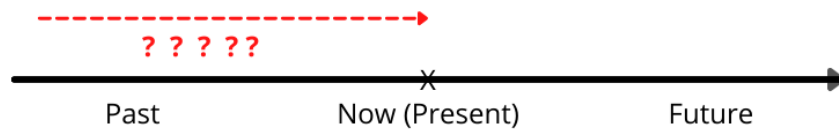
### Using the Present Perfect Simple

So, **the first way** we can use the Present Perfect Simple is to talk about something from our life – an event, an experience, etc. BUT we do not say when it happened. Maybe the time is not important, maybe we want to focus on the event, maybe we can't remember the time!

We can also use it to talk about something from our life we have done more than once (I've seen Titanic eleven times). That's because it would take too long – and probably be too boring for our listener – if we told the person every date/year we did the event! ("*I saw Titanic in 1999, then I saw it in 2001, next I saw it twice in 2002, then I saw it in 2004.....*").

The Present Perfect #1

**"in my life" [we do not give a time]**



**I have been on TV.  
I have visited London many times.**

**How we make the Present Perfect Simple:**

**Statements**

Subject	auxiliary verb	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
I You We They	have	seen eaten drunk
She He It	has	been played cooked

She has played football for Chelsea.

We have lived in Dubai.

**Negatives**

Subject	auxiliary verb	negative	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
I You We They	have	not (n't)	seen eaten drunk
She He It	has		been played cooked

I haven't eaten sushi.

He hasn't seen The Crown.

**Questions**

Auxiliary verb	subject	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
Have	I you we they	seen eaten drunk
Has	she he it	been played cooked

Have you been to New York?

Has she tried fish and chips?

**Are you ready now to move on to the next Tip Sheet: The Present Perfect Simple #2?**

Regards,

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