

## PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

The definition or concept of present perfect tense is taken from the term of this term. *Present* means 'now, present, at this time'. *Perfect* means 'complete, over or just over'. Based on this concept, there are some uses of present perfect tense:

### 1. Unspecified time before now

The present perfect tense expresses the idea that an action/activity happened or never happened before now, at unspecified time in the previous/past time. The exact time of this action is not important. It means that we can not use specific time expressions, such as: yesterday, last week (last ...), two days ago (... ago), that day, in 2008, when I was a child, when she called me, etc. If there is a specific mention of time, the simple past / past tense is used, for example: I bought this novel yesterday. But we can use this tense with unspecific expressions, such as: ever, never, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc. The examples of this tense are as following:

- a. I have already seen that movie.
- b. We have never seen snow.
- c. She has been married.
- d. Have you ever visited Singapore?

The concept of 'unspecified time' can be very confusing to understand. The following topics are the best to associate this tense:

#### a) Experience

You can use this tense to describe your experience that has been completed at the moment of speaking. You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. Examples:

✚ I have been to Egypt.

✚ She has never been to France.

#### b) Change over time

We often use the present perfect tense to talk about change that has happened over a period of time. Examples:

✚ My English has really improved since I took an English course.

✚ Solo has become more interested in cultural society.

c) Accomplishment

Examples:

✚ Doctors have cured many deadly diseases.

✚ John Ghrisham has written the heroic novels.

d) An uncompleted action you are expecting

This tense is used to express an action which we expected has not happened.

Using this tense suggests that we are still waiting for the action to happen.

Examples:

✚ The rain has not stopped.

✚ My mother has not come from my uncle's house.

2. The repetition of an activity

The present perfect tense expresses the repetition of an activity before now. The exact time of each repetition is not important. Example:

- a. We have had four tests so far this semester.
- b. She has flown on an airplane many times.
- c. He has written his wife a letter every other day for the last two weeks.

3. The duration from the past until now

We use the present perfect to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now and we can use 'for' and 'since'.

Since + a particular time

For + a duration of time

In the examples below, notice the difference between since and for:

- a. I have been here since nine o'clock.
- b. We have been here for two days.

The pattern of present perfect tense:

a. Positive sentence

S + Has / Have + V3 + (for / since)

S + Has / Have + Been + Adverb of time / Adverb of place

b. Negative sentence

S + Has / Have + Not + V3 + (for / since)

S + Has / Have + Been + Not + Adverb of time / Adverb of place

c. Interrogative sentence (Yes/No Question)

Has / Have + S + V3 + (for / since) ?

Has / Have + S + Been + Adverb of time / Adverb of place ?

The answers:

Yes, S + Has / Have

No. S + Has / Have + Not