

B Grammar guide

1 Present perfect

- We use the **PRESENT** perfect whenever we talk about the past until **NOW**. Use the present perfect for:
 - a situations that have gone on until now:
I have lived here for the past twenty-five years. (OR I've lived . . .)
 - b repeated actions that have gone on until now:
He has written four books. (OR He's written . . .) (He may write more books.)
- *Never, ever, yet* and *before* are usually used with the present perfect to talk about the past until now. *Never* describes an action that has not happened until now.
I've never read 'War and Peace'.
Ever is used to ask whether something has happened until now or not.
Have you ever been to Africa?
Yet is used to say that something has not happened until now (negative statement) or to ask whether it has happened until now (question).
I haven't finished my homework yet.
Have you finished your homework yet?
Before with the present perfect can mean 'until now'.
I've never been in love before.
- We use the **PRESENT** perfect when we talk about the present result (the result **NOW**) of past actions.
The children have eaten all the dinner so there is no food left for us now.
NOTE *Already* and *just* are usually used with the present perfect to talk about the present result of a past action.
Already is used in positive statements.
I've already explained, so you don't have to say anything.
Just is often used to talk about a very recent past action.
Jamie has just come in. Let's tell him what's happened.

2 Past simple

- We use the past simple whenever we talk about a past, finished situation or action (not the present result of it). Use the past simple to talk about:
 - a a single past, finished action or situation:
The children ate all the dinner. They ate the meat, the spaghetti and all the cheese. (They ate the food in the past.)
When I was five we lived in London.
 - b repeated, finished actions or situations in the past:
When she was young she went to France on holiday every year.
When I was a child we lived in a lot of different countries.
- NOTE** *When, ago, yesterday* and *last week* are usually used with the past simple.
I saw him when I went to Rome.
He died three years ago.

3 Present perfect and past simple

- We often use the present perfect to 'give the news' and then add more information in the past simple.
The children have eaten all the dinner, so there is no food left for us. They ate the meat, the vegetables and all the cheese.