**3. The Present Perfect Tense**

**3.1. Form:**

**AFFIRMATIVE:** SUBJECT + HAVE/HAS + VERB PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT

* *Ex: I have bought a car.*
* *Ex: She has bought a car*

**NEGATIVE:** SUBJECT + HAVEN’T / HAS NOT + VERB PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT

* *Ex: I haven’t bought a car.*
* *Ex: She has not bought a car.*

**INTERROGATIVE:** HAVE/HAS + SUBJECT + VERB PAST PARTICIPLE + OBJECT +?

* *Ex: have you bought a car?*
* *Ex: has she bought a car?*

**TIME EXPRESSIONS**

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, 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.

We use the present perfect with “today, this evening, this year etc. When these periods are not finished at the time of speaking. today

*Ex: I have drunk four cups of coffee today* past now

*Ex: have you had holiday this year (yet)?*

*Ex: I have not seen tom this morning . Have you ?*

**3.2. USE**

We use the present perfect to talk about:

1. **Actions that started in the past and not yet finished:**

When speaking about something that started in the past and has continued up until now, we use words such us FOR and SINCE.

For: with a length of time. E.g. *I’ve lived here for five years.*

Since: with a starting time. E.g. *I’ve been a teacher since 2007.*

1. **Actions which happened at some unknown time in the past (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 by using Ever or Never, for instance.

*E.g. Joan has studied two foreign languages*

*E.g. He has never travelled by train.*

*E.g. A: Have you ever met him?.*

*B: No, I have not met him.*

1. **Actions which happened in the past, but have an effect in the present:**

When the action happened at some time in the past, but the effect of the action is still important now (we see things as happening in the past but having a result in the present).

*E.g. I’ve lost my keys. (still missing)*

*E.g. I’ve cut my finger –and now it’s bleeding- (still injured)*

1. **Recent Past:**

Recently completed actions. **Key words**: just, already and yet.

Just: We use just to express actions that happened RECENTLY.

E.g. *Maria has JUST finished her homework* (not so long ago)

Already: We use ‘already’ to express actions that have finished before the actions were expected to finish. Ex: I have already done my homework

E.g. *I’ve already written the report* (here it is)

Yet:

- We use yet for negative and interrogative sentences.

E.g. *Have you eaten sushi yet?* (you expected that the other person has already eaten sushi).

-It is used to express expectations.

E.g. *I haven’t been to Europe yet.* (But I expect to go).

1. **With *for* and *since* to express an action which started in the past and extends to the present.**

Since is used with a point of time in the past until now:

E.g. *He has worked as a plumber since he left school.*

For is used with a period of time:

E.g. *He has worked as a plumber for 10 years.*

1. **with *ever* to express at any time in the past until now:**

E.g. Have you ever been to South America?

1. **After ‘It/That/This is/will be the first/second…time…’**

E.g. It’s the first time I’ve eaten such a delicious meal.

E.g. This’s the second time I’ve been in big troubles. (talking about past events)

E.g. It won’t be the first time he has disagreed with his parents. (talking about future events)

If the past simple is used instead of is/will, then the past perfect is used.

E.g. It was the first time I had called him on his personal number.

1. **Note the difference between “gone” (to) and “been” (to).**

E.g. Jim is on holiday. He has gone to Italy. (He is there now or in his way there)

E.g. Jane is back now. She has been to Italy. ( she has now come back).