

Verb patterns with present perfect tense

The present perfect tense represents an action which has been completed within a period of time that extends up to and includes the present.

When the verb is transitive

Subject + present perfect	Object	Adverbials, complements
Have you seen	him	this morning?
Have you seen	him	today?
I have seen	him	before.
He has not returned	the money	I lent him.
I have just read	a book	on the philosophy of Lord Buddha.

When the verb is intransitive

Subject + present perfect	Adverbials, complements etc.
We have lived	here since 2002.
I have worked	here for twenty years.
She has grown	enormously in the last two years.
The baby has slept	for two hours now.
A telegram has just come	from my uncle.
Has the postman been	already?
I have been	there this morning.

Verb patterns with present perfect tense

The present perfect tense cannot be used with definite points of time in the past. It cannot, for example, be used with adverbs like yesterday, last week or last year. However, periods of time extending up to the time of speaking may be mentioned.

Examples are: for three hours, since morning, since last year, for twenty years etc.

Common mistakes

Incorrect: I have received his letter yesterday.

Correct: I received his letter yesterday.