

Past Continuous (I was doing)

Past simple expresses a past action that is now finished.

- John left two minutes ago.

The past continuous expresses a past activity that has duration

- I met her while I was living in Paris.

The activity began before the action expressed by the past simple.

- She was making coffee when we arrived.

Present perfect

Something has happened =new information

1. We often use the present perfect to talk about something that happened in the recent past, but that is still true or important now.
- I've lost my keys (so I can't get into my house).
 - She's hurt her leg (so she can't play tennis today).

- They've missed the bus (so they will be late).

Been and Gone

In this tense, we use both 'been' and 'gone' as the past participle of 'go', but in slightly different circumstances. We use 'been' (often when we talk about life experience) to mean that the person we're talking about visited the place and came back.

- I've been to Paris (in my life, but now I'm in London, where I live).
- She has been to school today (but now she's back at home).
- They have never been to California.

We use 'gone' (often when we are talking about an action with a result in the present) to mean that the person went to the place and is at the place now.

- Where's John? He's gone to the shops (he's at the shops now).
- Julie has gone to Mexico (now she's in Mexico).
- They've gone to Japan for three weeks (now they're in Japan).

2. We use the present perfect to talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now.

I have had four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.

The adverbs **ever** and **never** express the idea of an unidentified time **before now** (*Have you ever visited Berlin?*) '**Ever**' and '**never**' are always placed **before the main verb (past participle)**.

Examples

Have you **ever** been to England?
Has she **ever** met the Prime Minister?

Never

Never means *at no time before now*, and is the same as *not ever*: (*I have never visited Berlin*)

BE CAREFUL! You must not use **never** and **not** together

~~I haven't never been to Italy.~~
I have **never** been to Italy.