



What's the Difference? Present Perfect and Past Simple

Present Perfect Simple	Past Simple
Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ve known Julie for ten years (and I still know her). 	Finished actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I knew Julie for ten years (but then she moved away and we lost touch).
A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My brother has been to Mexico three times. 	A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My great-grandmother went to Mexico three times.
A finished action with a result in the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ve lost my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now). 	A finished action with no result in the present: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I lost my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday).
With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I ve seen John this week. 	With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I saw John last week.

Remember:

- We use the past simple for past events or actions which have no connection to the present.
- We use the present perfect for actions which started in the past and are still happening now OR for finished actions which have a connection to the present.
- We CAN'T use the present perfect with a finished time word: NOT: ~~I've been to the museum yesterday.~~