

Using the present perfect and the past simple

Use

The present perfect and the past simple express different aspects of past time.

The **present perfect** is used for past experiences, news, actions and events which happened in the past *but you don't say when they happened*.

The **past simple** is used for completed actions in the past *when you say the time* (or when the time is clear from the situation).

	Present Perfect	Past Simple
Use	past experiences, news, actions and events which happened in the past <i>but you don't say when they happened</i> .	completed actions in the past <i>when you say the time</i> (or when the time is clear from the situation).
	When you are not sure if an event has taken place, you often start a conversation with the present perfect	If you know when the event happened you will change to the past simple.
Time phrases used	Ever Never Yet Already Just For three days Since April	Yesterday At midday (or any time) On Monday (or any day of the week) Last year (or month, week) Two months (years/weeks) ago
Example sentences	They have never eaten cheese I have been attending since last year She went camping for three days	I was at school yesterday I went swimming on Monday I had my job interview at 10:00 this morning