

Adapted from: Elementary Language Practice by Michael Vince

## Explanations

We use the present perfect with:

- *ever, never* (any time/not any time)  
*Have you ever seen a lion? I've never seen a lion.*
- *just* (a short time ago)  
*Is Peter here? No, he's just gone out. There he is!*
- *yet* (not finished-with negatives and questions)  
*I haven't finished yet.*  
*Have you finished your homework yet? No, I'm still doing it.*
- *already* (finished – with statements)  
*Have a sandwich!*  
*No thanks, I've already eaten. I had lunch at 12.00.*
- *since* (from the start)

1997

1998

NOW

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*started*

*I've lived in this town since 1998. I live here now.*  
(1998 is the time I started living here.)

We can use the present perfect or the past simple with:

- *for* (a period of time)  
*I've lived in this house for three years. I live in it now.*  
*I lived in that flat for two years, but I don't live there now.*

PAST

NOW

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*3 years*

*I've lived in this town for three years. I live here now.*  
(Three years is the period of time I've lived here.) Compare with *since*.

We use the past simple with:

- *ago*  
*I started learning English a year ago.*