

Unit 25: PRESENT PERFECT – USE

Both the simple and the continuous formation (Unit 24) mean, very generally, ‘past time and present time together’.

1 Continuation up to the present time

EXAMPLES:	I’ve lived here all my life.	[I was born here, I live here now.]
	He has been working there for five years now.	[He started here five years ago and [he works there now.]
	How long have you known John?	[When did you first meet?]
	We haven’t seen each other since last January.	[Last January was the last time we [saw each other.]

2 A past event which is important for now

EXAMPLES:	Look! The sun has come out.	So now the weather is fine.
	Look! It’s been snowing .	So now the ground is white.
	Have you seen John?	I want to speak to him.
	Help! Somebody has taken my wallet.	

3 General experiences in life (simple formation only)

EXAMPLES:	It’s the most beautiful place I’ve ever seen in all my life.
	They’ve been to Thailand hundreds of times.
	Have you ever eaten snake?

4 Simple and continuous formation

The meanings of the simple and continuous formations are basically the same but sometimes they are a little different.

EXAMPLES:	They have built a new stadium.	Now it is finished.
	They’ve been building a new stadium.	It is probably not finished.

Units 39 and 40 tell you more about the difference.

NOTICE: **Have got** is grammatically present perfect but it usually has a present simple meaning (Unit 20):

EXAMPLES:	Have you got a brother called John?	[Do you have . . . ?]
	I’ve got a terrible headache.	[now]

NOTICE: Present perfect or present continuous? (Unit 39)
Present perfect or past simple? (Unit 40)