## Past simple and present perfect

A	Time expressions that refer to the present, such as <b>this morning / week / month</b> and <b>today</b> , can be used with either past simple or present perfect verbs.  If we think of <b>this morning</b> (etc.) as a past, completed time period, then we use the past simple; if we think of <b>this morning</b> (etc.) as a time period which includes the present moment, then we use the present perfect. Compare:  □ I <b>didn't shave</b> this morning. (= the morning is over and I didn't shave) and □ I <b>haven't shaved</b> this morning. (= it is still the morning and I might shave later)
В	In a sentence which includes a time clause with <b>since</b> , we generally prefer a past simple verb in the time clause and a present perfect verb in the main clause. The time clause refers to a particular point in the past:  Since Mr Dodson <b>became</b> president unemployment <b>has increased</b> . (rather than has become)  She <b>hasn't been able</b> to play tennis since she <b>broke</b> her arm. (rather than has broken)  Note, however, that we use the present perfect in the time clause if the two situations described in the
	main clause and time clause extend until the present:  Have you met any of your neighbours since you've lived here? (not you lived)
С	With time clauses introduced by after, when, until, as soon as, once, by the time and the time expressions the minute / second / moment the past simple refers to past, completed events and the present perfect refers to future events. Compare these examples:  After she left hospital (past), she had a long holiday. and After Lucas has left school (future), he will be spending six months in India. The minute I got the news about Anna (past) I telephoned my parents. and I'll contact you the minute I've got my exam results. (future)  In the time clause in sentences like this it is possible to use the past perfect instead of the past simple (e.g. After she had left) and the present simple instead of the present perfect (e.g. After Lucas leaves) with the same meaning (see also Unit 5).
D	In news reports, you will often read about or hear recent events introduced with the present perfect, and then the past simple or other past tenses are used to give details:  A Russian spacecraft has returned safely to Earth with its two passengers. US astronaut Scott Keane and Russian cosmonaut Olga Kaleri landed in the early hours of Wednesday.  An American woman has become the first person to make 2 million contributions to Wikipedia. Esther Miller began editing the site eight years ago.
E	After the pattern It / This / That is / will be the first time we generally use the present perfect in the next clause:  That's the first time I've seen Jan look embarrassed. (reporting a past event)  It won't be the first time she has voted against the government. (talking about a future event)  Note that after It / This / That was the first time we generally use the past perfect (see Unit 5):  It was the first time I'd talked to Dimitra outside the office.

## **Exercises**

have	go	oversleep	read	spend	wear	
A: Sha	ll I make	us some dinn	er? It's a	lready eigh	o'clock.	
B: No,	thanks. thing.	1	to the o	dentist this	afternoo	n and my mouth hurts too much to
		three lectures	s todav a	nd I still ha	ve two m	ore later this afternoon.
It was	so hot to	oday that I		shorts ar	nd a T-shi	rt at work.
We		£200 on fo	ood this r	month and	there's an	nother week to go before I get paid.
A: Doy	ou wan	t a lift home?				
B: INO,	I	much of the	orning be	ecause my a	alarm clo	ck didn't go off, so I need to work la
		. much of the f	eport ye	t, but i nave	to finish	it by the weekend.
iompleto ense — p	e the ser present	ntences with t perfect or pas	the pairs it simple	of verbs fr	om the b	ox. Choose the most appropriate
be able	– feel	happen – s	peak	improve -	be	
not wa	nt – fall	rescue – l	be w	ork – not h	ave	
Maria		to ao sw	imming	sinca sha		in the river.
Since s	he	at th	e compa	nv she		a day off through illness.
Since h	e	the gi	rl from a	house fire.	he	on TV almost every day.
A lot		since I las	:t			annose every day.
			·	to y	ou.	
Since I						ndependent
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