Grammar

Present perfect

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1 Match these examples of sentences using the past simple and the present perfect (a–c) with the rules (1–3).

a Spider-Man has always been my favourite superhero.
b I've seen all the Spider-Man films.
c Peter Parker became a superhero when he was just a teenager.

1 The past simple is used to refer to something that happened at a specific time in the past.
2 The present perfect is used to refer to something that started in the past and is still true now.
3 The present perfect is used to talk about past experiences when the time is not stated, often with *ever* and *never*.

2 Look at these examples of other uses of the present perfect. Choose the correct phrases in the explanations.

1 *The news* ***has finished****. You can watch your programme now.*
The person is talking about something which happened *very recently / a long time ago*.

2 ***I've watched*** *three films this morning and it's still only 11 a.m.!*
The person is speaking about a time period which *has / hasn't* finished.

3 Complete these sentences with *has, have, has not* or *have not*. In which sentence can you NOT use contractions (*'s / 've / hasn't / haven't*)?

1 ..... you ever seen *Star Wars*?
2 My mother ..... never watched a scary film.
3 We ..... been to see the new comedy. It was great!
4 My teacher ..... told us to watch a film in English for homework. I'm going to watch *Toy Story*.
5 My brother ..... bought a new DVD for ages. He usually buys one every month.
6 I'm so sorry. I ..... given you the money for the tickets you bought.

4 Look at these examples of the present perfect with *for* and *since*. Then complete the sentences below so that they are true for you.

I've been at school ***since 8 a.m.***
I've been at school ***for six hours.***

1 I've lived in my house/flat for .....
2 I've studied English since .....
3 I haven't eaten anything for .....
4 I haven't been to the cinema since .....
5 I've known my best friend since .....
6 I haven't bought a new book for .....

5 Exam candidates often make mistakes with the present perfect. Choose the correct form of the verbs in these sentences.

1 My best friend's name is Ola. *I know / I've known* her since I was three.
2 They *live / have lived* there since 1995.
3 Last summer, I *have met / met* a boy called Roberto in Venice.
4 *I lost / I've lost* my sunglasses during the school trip to Milan two weeks ago.
5 I hope I *help / have helped* you.

6 Put these words in the correct order to make questions. Then ask and answer in pairs.

1 watched / many / How / films / you / have / week / this / ?
2 this / cinema / How / you / been / times / have / the / to / month / many / ?
3 language / in / ever / you / Have / a / seen / film / another / ?
4 film / seen / more / times / five / than / you / Which / have / ?
5 cried / ever / you / watching / while / film / a / Have
6 scariest / seen / ever / What's / you / the / film / have