

## 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

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

### 2 A past event which is important for now

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

### 3 General experiences in life (simple formation only)

<b>EXAMPLES:</b>	It’s the biggest set of tires <b>I’ve</b> ever <b>seen</b> in my entire life.
	They’ve <b>been</b> on this truck for six months.
	<b>Have</b> you ever <b>driven</b> truck?

### 4 Simple and continuous formation

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

<b>EXAMPLES:</b>	They <b>have built</b> a new work camp.	Now it is finished.
	They’ve <b>been building</b> a new work camp.	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):

<b>EXAMPLES:</b>	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)