

Simple Past Tense and Present Perfect Tenses

The simple past tells us something has started and finished in the past. They contain the past tense form of the verb. The present perfect tells us something has started in the past and whether the action is finished or unfinished it still affects the present in some way.

The present perfect uses have/has and a past participle verb (usually ending in -ed and -en). However some past participle verbs are irregular, e.g. gone, swum, flown, learnt.

Simple Past Tense

Tom drove to work today.

Farhan travelled to Dover for the meeting.

We trained for the match.

Troy fell off his chair.

Carl went to the cinema with Gemma.

The birds flew South for the winter.

Mrs. Jones spoke about the new classroom in assembly.

Nasreen swam one length.

Tiddles climbed the tree.

Zoe learnt how to make apple pie.

Albie danced on stage all night.

Gran cooked a feast for dinner.

Harry rushed to answer the door.

Present Perfect Tense

Tom has driven to work today.

Farhan has travelled to Dover for the meeting.

We have trained for the match.

Troy has fallen off his chair.

Carl has gone to the cinema with Gemma.

The birds have flown South for the winter.

Mrs. Jones has spoken about the new classroom in assembly.

Nasreen has swum one length.

Tiddles has climbed the tree.

Zoe has learnt how to make apple pie.

Albie has danced on stage all night.

Gran has cooked a feast for dinner.

Harry has rushed to answer the door.