

## THE PRESENT PERFECT

The present perfect is used to indicate a **link between the present and the past**. The time of the action is **before now but not specified or unimportant**, and we are often more interested in the result than in the action itself.

In Italian, the form of the Present Perfect (to have + past participle) is similar to the "passato prossimo", but they are not always interchangeable. Be careful!

The present perfect is used to describe:

- An action or situation that **started in the past and continues in the present**.
  - *I have lived in Paris since 1994. (= and I still do.)*
  - *They haven't lived here for years.*
  - *She has worked in the bank for five years.*
  - *We have had the same car for ten years.*
- An action performed during **a period that has not yet finished**.
  - *She has been to the cinema twice this week. (=the week isn't over yet.)*
  - *I have worked hard this week.*
  - *It has rained a lot this year.*
  - *We haven't seen her today.*
- A repeated action in an **unspecified period between the past and now**.
  - *We have visited London several times.*
  - *They have seen that film six times*
  - *It has happened several times already.*
  - *We have eaten at that restaurant many times.*
- An action that was **completed in the very recent past**, often expressed with "just".
  - *I have just finished my homework.*
  - *I have just eaten.*
  - *We have just seen her.*
  - *Your friend has just called.*
- An action when **the time is not important**.
  - *He has read 'Oliver Twist'. (= the result of his reading is important)*
  - *Someone has eaten my soup!*
  - *Have you seen the film 'Star Wars'?*
  - *She has studied French, Russian, and English.*

All these examples are quite similar. The basic concept is that the Present Perfect tense is a Present Tense, the time in the past is unspecified or unimportant. The important thing is that the action or state is still going on now or is important for what you want to say.