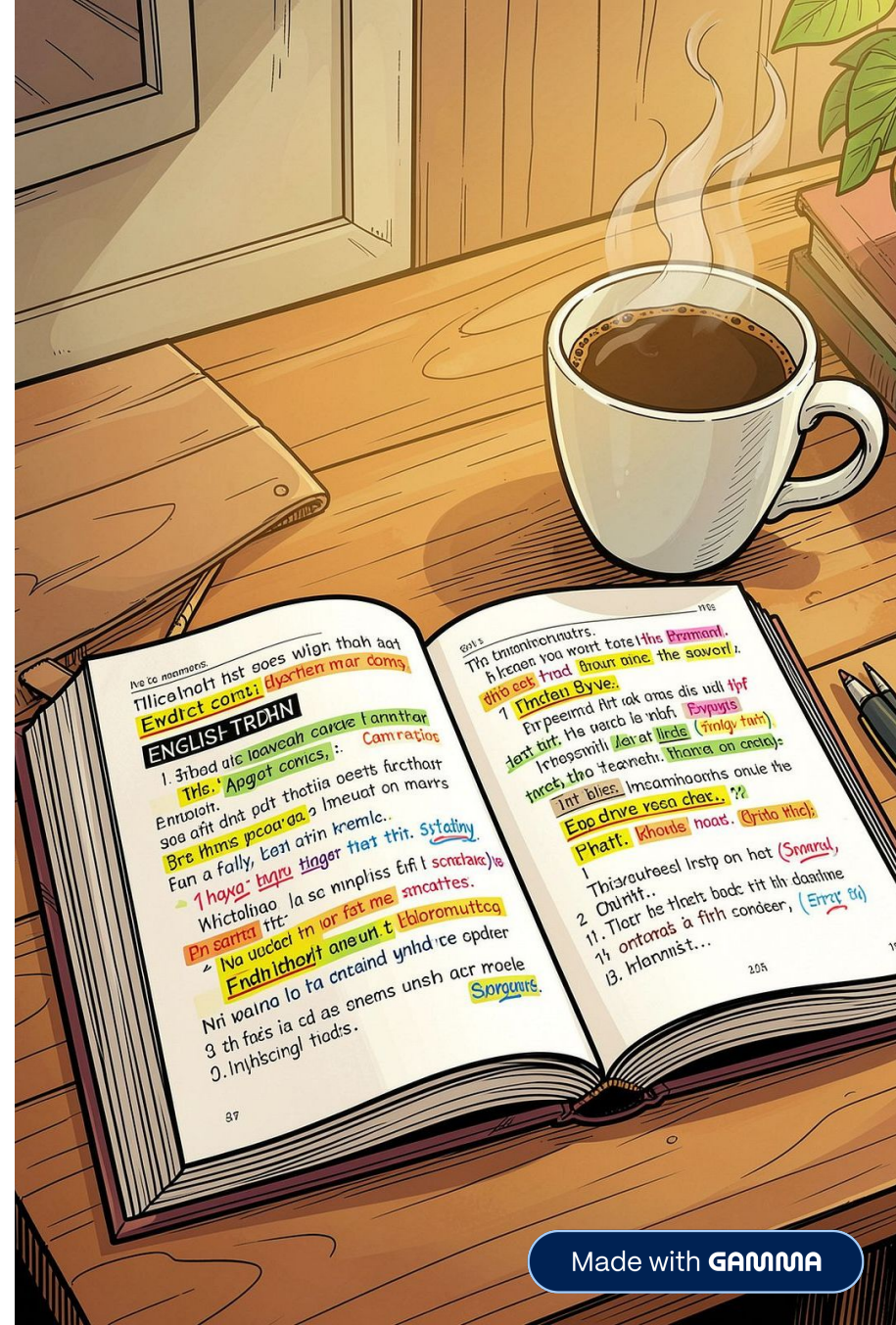


The Present Perfect Tense

One of the most useful — and most misunderstood — tenses in English. Master it, and you'll sound more natural, more fluent, and more confident.

GRAMMAR ESSENTIALS



What Is the Present Perfect?

The Formula

have / has + past participle

- I **have finished** my homework.
- She **has travelled** to Japan.
- They **have lived** here for years.

The Core Idea

The Present Perfect connects the **past** to the **present**. It describes actions that happened at an unspecified time before now — or that began in the past and are still relevant today.

- ❑ Unlike the Past Simple, we don't say *when* the action happened.

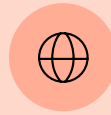
When Do We Use It?

The Present Perfect is used in four key situations. Each one bridges the past and the present in a different way.



Completed Actions

Something finished recently with a result you can see or feel now.



Life Experiences

Things you have (or haven't) done at any point in your life.



Ongoing Actions

Actions that started in the past and are still happening today.



Recent News

Something that has just happened and is still newsworthy.



USE CASE 1

Experiences & Life Events

We use the Present Perfect to talk about things we have (or haven't) done in our lives — without specifying *when*.

✓ **"I have visited London."**

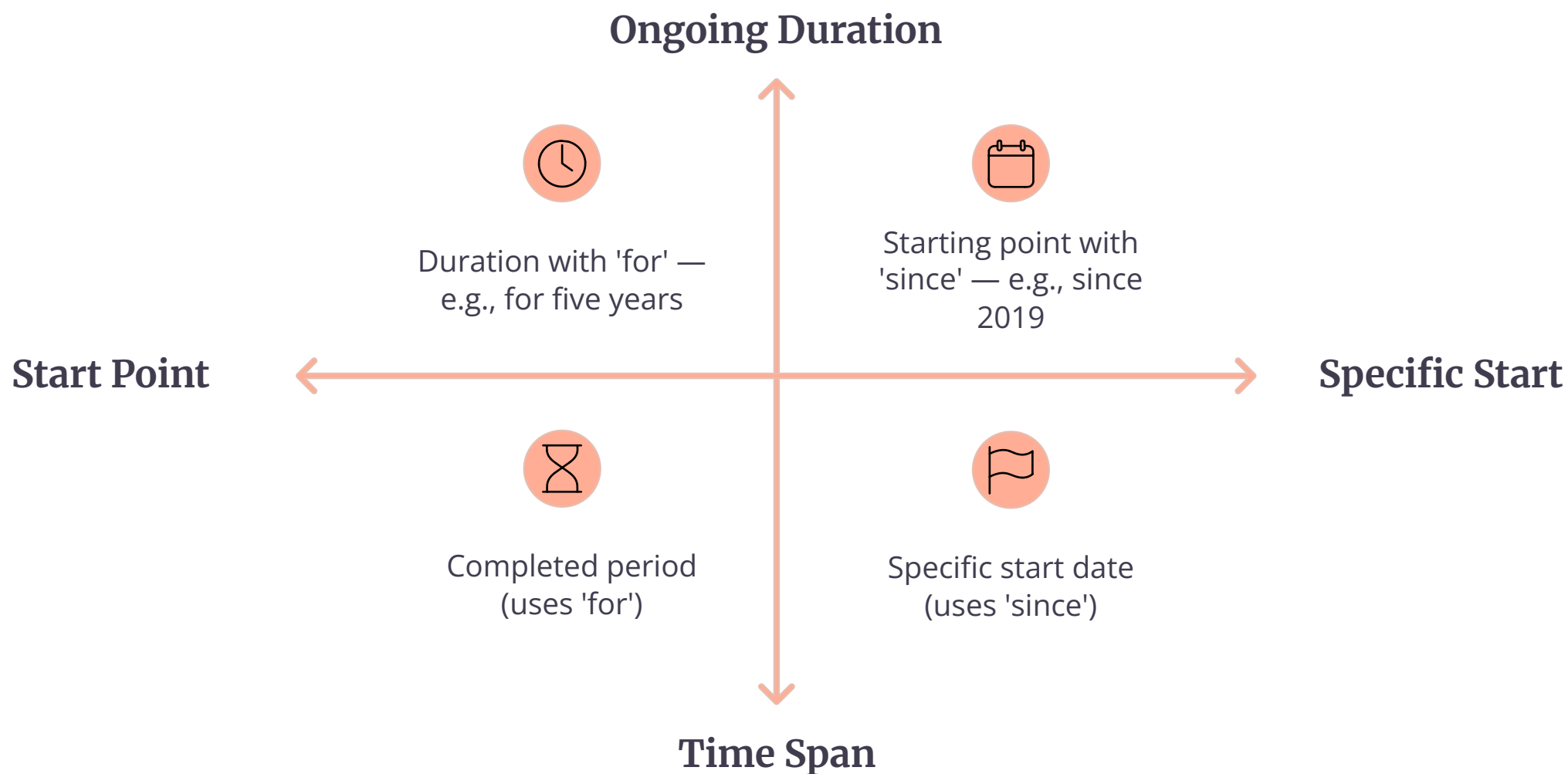
The exact date doesn't matter — the experience does.

✓ **"Have you ever eaten sushi?"**

Asking about life experience, not a specific meal.

Actions Started in the Past, Continuing Now

When something began in the past and is **still true today**, use the Present Perfect with **for** or **since**.



Use **for** to talk about a **period of time** and **since** to talk about a **specific starting point**.

for + duration

...for three hours / for ten years / for a week

since + starting point

...since Monday / since 2015 / since I was a child

USE CASE 3

Recent Actions with Visible Results

Something has just happened, and you can see — or feel — the effect right now.



→ **"She has just finished her work."**

She is free now.

→ **"I've lost my keys!"**

I can't open the door right now.

→ **"It has stopped raining."**

We can go outside now.

Common Time Expressions

These words are strong signals that the Present Perfect is needed.



for / since

Duration or starting point of an ongoing action.



yet / already

Yet in questions/negatives; **already** for completed actions.



ever / never

Ever in questions; **never** for things not done in life.



just

Something that happened a very short time ago.

Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

Present Perfect

- Unspecified time
- Connected to the present
- "I **have seen** that film."
- "She **has lived** here for years."

Past Simple

- Specific time in the past
- No present connection needed
- "I **saw** that film **last week**."
- "She **lived** here **in 2010**."

⚠️ **Common error:** Don't use a specific time with Present Perfect. "~~I have seen him yesterday.~~" → "I **saw him yesterday.**"

Your Present Perfect Toolkit

You now have everything you need to use the Present Perfect with confidence.

01

Remember the formula

have/has + past participle — always.

02

Spot the signal words

for, since, just, already, yet, ever, never

03

Ask yourself: is it connected to now?

If yes → Present Perfect. If a specific past time → Past Simple.

04

Practise every day

Write three Present Perfect sentences about your own life today.

