

Present Perfect Tense

Present Results

What does it mean when we hear:
“He has bought a new motorcycle.”?

- a. He bought a new motorcycle in the past.
- b. The motorcycle is new now.
- c. Both.



What does it mean when we hear:
“He has bought a new motorcycle.”?

- a. He bought a new motorcycle in the past.
- b. The motorcycle is new now.
- c. Both. Whoa, look how cool it is!!!



“He bought a new motorcycle.”

- a. He bought a new motorcycle in the past.
- b. The motorcycle is new now.
- c. Both.



“He bought a new motorcycle.”



- a. He bought a new motorcycle in the past.
- b. The motorcycle is new now.
- c. Both.

*We only know that he bought it in the past. We do not have information on whether or not it is new now.



“Kenny has baked a cake.”

- a. Kenny baked a cake in the past.
- b. There is cake in the kitchen now!
- c. Both.



“Kenny has baked a cake.”

- a. Kenny baked a cake in the past.
- b. There is cake in the kitchen now!
- c. Both. Let's eat!!



“Kenny baked a cake.”



- a. Kenny baked a cake in the past.
- b. There is cake in the kitchen now.
- c. Both.

“Kenny baked a cake.”



- a. Kenny baked a cake in the past.
- b. There is cake in the kitchen now.
- c. Both.

*We only know that he baked a cake in the past and we have no information about if there is cake for us now or not!!

“Betty has broken her leg.”

- a. Betty broke her leg in the past.
- b. Her leg is broken now.
- c. Both.



“Betty has broken her leg.”

- a. Betty broke her leg in the past.
- b. Her leg is broken now.
- c. Both. Do you want to write your name on her cast?



“Betty broke her leg.”

- a. Betty broke her leg in the past.
- b. Her leg is broken now.
- c. Both.



“Betty broke her leg.”



- a. Betty broke her leg in the past.
- b. Her leg is broken now.
- c. Both.

*We don't know if Betty has a broken leg now, that information is not provided. However, we do know that she had a broken leg in the past.





“They have cleaned the car.”

- a. They cleaned the car in the past.
- b. The car is clean now.
- c. Both.



“They have cleaned the car.”

- a. They cleaned the car in the past..
- b. The car is clean now.
- c. Both. Let’s go for a spin!!



“They cleaned the car.”



- a. They cleaned the car in the past.
- b. The car is clean now.
- c. Both.

“They cleaned the car.”



- a. They cleaned the car in the past.
- b. The car is clean now.
- c. Both.

*Is the car clean now? We don't know.
Maybe it is, maybe it isn't.

“Simon and Clare have set up the dominoes.”

- a. Simon and Clare set them up in the past.
- b. The dominoes are set up now.
- c. Both.



“Simon and Clare have set up the dominoes.”

- a. Simon and Clare set them up in the past.
- b. The dominoes are set up now.
- c. Both. I want to knock them over!



“Simon and Clare set up the dominoes.”

- a. Simon and Clare set them up in the past.
- b. The dominoes are set up now.
- c. Both.



“Simon and Clare set up the dominoes.”



- a. Simon and Clare set them up in the past.
- b. The dominoes are set up now.
- c. Both.

*This sentence doesn't tell us if the dominoes are still set up or not. In fact, I would tend to think that this sentence would be followed by, “Then, they knocked them over” and refer to a completed situation.





“Ben has recieved his salary.”

- a. Ben recieved his salary in the past.
- b. Ben has some money now.
- c. Both.



“Ben has recieved his salary.”

- a. Ben recieved his salary in the past.
- b. Ben has some money now.
- c. Both. I’m going to ask him if I can borrow some!

“Harry recieved his salary.”

- a. Harry recieved his salary in the past.
- b. Harry has some money now.
- c. Both.



“Harry recieved his salary.”



- a. Harry recieved his salary in the past.
- b. Harry has some money now.
- c. Both.

*We don't have any information about whether or not Harry has any money now. Why don't we call Ben instead for the loan, just to be on the safe side?!

Basically Present Perfect is providing information about a past event and the current result we have of that event. Using the Simple Past Tense, we don't learn anything about the present situation.

Past Simple only tells us 1 thing- that something happened in the past. Present Perfect gives us 2 pieces of information. Something happened in the past and has a present result. This result can vary, and it does not always have to be one certain thing.

Please look at this example:

“Sally has taken a nap.”

Well, from this we know that she took a nap in the past,
ok.

But there could be different present results. The result of
Sally’s nap could be:

Sally isn’t tired now.

Or maybe:

Sally is in a good mood now, though she sure wasn’t earlier today.