

main verb is used with a form of *have* as a helping verb. Use *have* or *has* to form the present perfect tense, *had* to form the past perfect tense, and *shall have* or *will have* to form the future perfect tense.

The present perfect tense indicates an action or a condition that began in the past and is completed as of the present time or continues into the present.

The second coat of paint has been applied.

(The action of applying began in the past and is now completed.)

Grandmother has been sick for two weeks.

(The condition of sickness began in the past and continues into the present.)

The simple past tense and the present perfect tense both refer to actions or conditions in the past. How are they different? An action expressed in the simple past tense could have happened in the near or the distant past. And it could have lasted for a brief time or for a long time. In contrast, an action expressed in the present perfect tense *began* in the past, but it is either completed at the present moment or continues into the present time.

Simple past tense:

The children sang three songs.

(At some time in the past—this morning, yesterday, or last week—the children sang. They are not singing now, at the present time.)

Present perfect tense:

The children have sung three songs.

(They began singing in the recent past and apparently finished just now.)

Simple past tense:

My father worked at Byler's Machine Shop for five years.

(At some time in the past—a year ago or thirty years ago—my father worked there, but apparently he no longer does.)

Present perfect tense:

My father has worked at Byler's Machine Shop for five years.

(He began working there five years ago and apparently still does.)

Sometimes either the simple past tense or the present perfect tense may be suitable, depending on the purpose of the speaker or writer. If he simply wants to state that the action occurred in the past, he may use the simple past tense. But if he wants to emphasize that an action is completed

- b. My cousin₁ the boy with red hair₁ is visiting us.
- c. Jessica₁ will you set the table for dinner?

Lesson Introduction: Call the students' attention to the definition of *perfect* as used in this lesson. You can use a green apple to illustrate. In the past, the apple *had reached* perfection when it was a blossom. In the present, it *has reached* perfection as a green apple. In the future, it *will have reached* perfection when it is a ripe apple.

The apple is perfect in every stage. However, its past perfection would no longer do now. Had it remained a blossom, it would not have remained perfect, for it could not have fulfilled its purpose. The final perfection of the green apple is a ripe apple, which will come in due time.

Lesson Outline:

1. *The present perfect tense indicates an*

action or a condition that began in the past and is completed as of the present time or continues into the present.

- a. Distinguish between the simple past tense and the present perfect tense.
 - 1) An action expressed in the simple past tense could have happened in the near or the distant past. And it could have lasted for a brief time or for a long time.
 - 2) An action expressed in the present perfect tense began in the past, but it is either completed at the present moment or continues into the present time.
- b. The simple past tense and the present perfect tense emphasize different aspects of the action.
 - 1) The simple past tense merely states that the action occurred in the past.