

51 Present perfect with present results



1 Form

	REGULAR VERBS			IRREGULAR VERBS			
infinitive	visit	play	want	break	come	eat	have
past participle	visited	played	wanted	broken	come	eaten	had

Past participles are either regular (infinitive + *-ed*) or irregular.

Spelling rules ► page 316 Irregular past participles ► page 314

2 Use

We use the present perfect

- to talk about things that happened a short time ago and that have a result now:
*I've **broken** my leg.* (It's broken now.)
*Your sister **has arrived**.* (She's here now.)
*The post **has come**.* (There's a letter for you.)
*They've **gone out**.* (They aren't here.)

With the past simple, the results are also in the past:

*I **broke** my leg last year and **didn't play** football from August to October.*
*My sister **arrived** late and **missed** the beginning of the film.*

- to introduce new information:
*'Julian **has passed** his driving test.'* 'Oh, that's good news!'
*The US President **has arrived** in London.*

When we give more details about these events, we use the past simple:

*Julian **has passed** his driving test. He **took** it yesterday.*
*The US President **has arrived** in London. He **flew** here from Washington last night.*

3 been and gone

Been is the past participle of *be*. *Gone* is the past participle of *go*:

*I've **been** tired all day.* (And I'm still tired now.)

*Fran **has gone** to the doctor's.* (And she's still there now.)



But we use *been* as the past participle of *go* when it means 'has gone and come back':
*My parents **have been** to New Zealand.* (They have visited it in the past and have returned.)
*My parents **have gone** to New Zealand on holiday.* (They are there now.)