

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)
This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.
Has he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.
Did he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.
He **lost** his key (*past simple*)
but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
(*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- a: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.
b: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
a: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- a: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
b: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

Unit 4

are you doing? (present continuous questions)

A

positive

I	am	doing working going staying etc.
he she it	is	
we you they	are	

question

am	I	doing? working? going? staying? etc.
is	he she they	
are	we you they	



- 'Are you feeling OK?' 'Yes, I'm fine, thanks.'
- 'Is it raining?' 'Yes, take an umbrella.'
- Why are you wearing a coat? It's not cold.
- 'What's Paul doing?' 'He's reading the newspaper.'
- 'What are the children doing?' 'They're watching television.'
- Look, there's Emily! Where's she going?
- Who are you waiting for? Are you waiting for Sue?

B

Study the word order:

is/are + *subject* + **-ing**

	Is	he	working	today?
Where	are	Paul	working	today? (<i>not Is working Paul today?</i>)
Where	are	they	going?	
Where	are	those people	going?	(<i>not Where are going those people?</i>)

C

Short answers

Yes,	I	am.	No,	I'm	not.	or	No,	he	isn't.
	he she it	is.		he's she's it's			she it		
	we you they	are.		we're you're they're			we you they	aren't.	

- 'Are you going now?' 'Yes, I am.'
- 'Is Paul working today?' 'Yes, he is.'
- 'Is it raining?' 'No, it isn't.'
- 'Are your friends staying at a hotel?' 'No, they aren't. They're staying with me.'