**Present perfect**

The present perfect is one of the most used verb tenses in the English language. It is used to talk about actions that happened in an indefinite time in the past or that started in the past and continued up until the present.

**Example 1: Derek and Anna have traveled to China.**

**Example 1: Carla has lived in Japan since 2010.**

In example 1 we can see that Derek and Anna have traveled to China, but we don't know when, so we use the present perfect*.* However, in example 2, we are able to see an action that started in the past and hasn't yet finished, because Carla still lives in Japan.

**The structure of the present perfect*:***

Building a sentence with the present perfectis simple. When we want to create an affirmative sentence we use the following structure:

**Subject + have/has + verb in the past participle + complement**

So, a sentence built following the structure above would be: **“She has studied in Harvard”**. Let's analyze it.

* "She" is the subject of the sentence, that is, who performed the action.
* "Has" is the auxiliary verb, that must always be present in the present perfec*t.*
* "Studied" is the main verb, that must always be in the past participle form.
* "In harvard" is the complement of the sentence, that may vary according to the context.

Now, what should we do when building a negative sentence in the present perfect? To build negative sentences we must use the same structure mentioned above, but we must add the word "not".

**Subject + have/has + not + verb in the past participle + complement**

Thus, a negative sentence would be built like the following example: **“I have not eaten meat for 10 years”**. Take a look at the analysis below:

* "I" is the subject of the sentence, the person who performed the action.
* "Have" is the auxiliary verb, that must always appear in the present perfect.
* "Not" is an adverb, necessary to make the sentence negative.
* "Eaten" is the main verb in its past participle form.
* "For 10 years" is the complement of this sentence, that could be replaced by other complements depending on the sentence.

**Tip:** We can connect the auxiliary verb "have" with the adverb "not", so the contracted version would be: “I **haven’t** eaten meat for 10 years”.