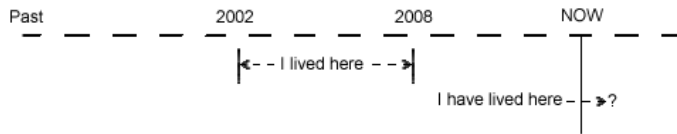


Lived or have lived? 2 (of 2) ★★☆☆

Past tense (*lived*) or present perfect (*have lived*)?

Last week, we said this:



(from Grammar Bite 130, 4 Dec 2012)

If something finished in past time, we use past tense; if it started in the past and goes on to the present, we use present perfect.

This is true, but there's more.

Something is finished, but it has an effect on something else NOW

1 Buying the bread



"I've bought the bread."
(so don't buy any more NOW)

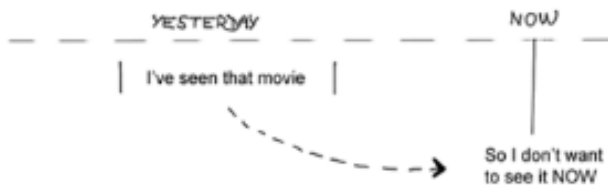
2 Feeding the dog



"You need to feed the dog."
"I've already fed her. She's pretending!"
(and I'm not feeding her NOW)

Illustrations: Holden-Hotopf

Diagram



Note on style

This true in FORMAL language. In INFORMAL speech, we also use the past tense.

Next two weeks: present perfect progressive (*I have been living...*), GB 132 & 133

Quick check

Complete each sentence with one of the phrases given:

(Hint: we're using formal style)

finish finished have finished

- 1 "I _____ the report."
- 2 "Oh, good. when did you _____ it?"
- 3 "I _____ it last night."

has been *was*

4 "He _____ to Mexico already."

5 "When _____ he there?" "Last year."