**Usage of tenses – overview**

**What's the difference? Present Perfect and Past Simple**

Students are given a complete revision of the different tenses by making comparison on the board and they are required to write sentences to show the differences.

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| **Present Perfect Simple** | **Past Simple** |
| Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present:   * I**'ve known** Julie for ten years (and I still know her). | Finished actions:   * I **knew** Julie for ten years (but then she moved away and we lost touch). |
| A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience):   * My brother **has been** to Mexico three times. | A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead):   * My great-grandmother **went** to Mexico three times. |
| A finished action with a result in the present:   * I**'ve lost** my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now). | A finished action with no result in the present:   * I **lost** my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday). |
| With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today):   * I**'ve seen** John this week. | With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday):   * I **saw** John last week |

1. We use the past simple for past events or actions which have no connection to the present.
2. We use the present perfect for actions which started in the past and are still happening now OR for finished actions which have a connection to the present.
3. We CAN'T use the present perfect with a finished time word:
   * NOT: I've been to the museum yesterday.