



## 1 Look at these examples - the **verbs** are in red and the **time expressions** are in blue:

### Time expressions

Some time expressions are not normally used with the present perfect but with the **SIMPLE PAST** (or past perfect):

*In 1989 Japan overtook the USA as the world's richest nation.*

*Did you see that documentary about South Africa on TV the other day?*

Some are not normally used with the simple past but with the **PRESENT PERFECT** (or past perfect):

*I haven't been abroad since January.*

*Have you seen any good TV programmes lately?*

Some can be used either with the **SIMPLE PAST** or the **PRESENT PERFECT**, depending on the situation:

*'Have you ever been to Kenya?' 'Yes, I have. I went there earlier this year.'*

*'Did you ever go to Mombasa while you were in Kenya?'*

A few are normally only used with the **PAST PERFECT**:

*He had booked his tickets a few days before.*

*We were worried because she hadn't arrived by 11 o'clock.*

## 2 Arrange the time expressions below into four lists:

1 used with **SIMPLE PAST**

3 used with either **SIMPLE PAST** or **PRESENT PERFECT**

2 used with **PRESENT PERFECT**

4 used with **PAST PERFECT**

already a little while earlier a long time ago a moment ago all my life always at midnight  
by midnight by now by the end of the year for two months in the morning in 1997 just now  
last year never not long ago not long before that recently so far still this afternoon  
this week this year till now till midnight until today when I was younger yesterday yet

## 3 Write only the **BEGINNINGS** of four sentences and the **ENDINGS** of four more sentences, using the time expressions above. Ask your partner to complete them, like this:

*When I was younger ... I didn't know anything about foreign countries.*

*I have wanted to go to the United States ...all my life.*

### Underline the mistakes in these sentences and then correct them.

- How nice to see you again! I didn't see you for ages. *haven't seen*
- It's six years since their eldest son has been born.
- What a delicious Indian meal that was - have you cooked it yourself?
- Where have you got that marvellous Persian rug?
- I couldn't look up the word because I lost my dictionary.
- That is the funniest story I ever heard.
- It was a long time since I wrote to my friends in Mexico.
- I didn't finish yet, can I have a few more minutes, please?
- By 1965 most African countries have become independent from colonial rule.
- He was having three cups of tea by the time I arrived.



### Ask your partners:

- what foreign countries they have travelled to and what their impressions were of the place, the people and the lifestyle
- what they consider to be the most significant international events that have happened during their lifetime, and why
- what the most significant international events this year have been

Many of the time expressions on this page are also used when referring to the present or future:

*I'll see you in the morning.*

*I have a shower in the morning.*

*Let's meet this afternoon.*

*I have a meeting this afternoon.*