

PERFECT TENSES

TOM: Who do you work for?

simple present - general information

MARY: I work for Cool Computers.

TOM: How long have you worked there?

present perfect - how long, since when

MARY: I've worked there for about five years.

OR

TOM: How long have you been working for them?

*present perfect progressive - how long, since when
(with emphasis on continuing action)*

MARY: I've been working for them since 2005.

TOM: Who did you work for before?

simple past - completed action, finished time period

MARY: Before that, I worked for Valley Solutions.

TOM: Do you travel a lot for your job?

simple present - general information

MARY: Yes, I do. / No, I don't.

TOM: Have you (ever) lived abroad?

*present perfect - asking about experience up till now
"ever" = at any time, "yet" = up till now*

MARY: Yes, I have. / No, I haven't (yet).

MARY: I lived in (insert name of country).

simple past - completed action, finished time period

TOM: What did you do there?

MARY: I sold (insert name of product).

TOM: Have you (ever) operated this kind of machine?

*present perfect - asking about experience up till now
"ever" = at any time, "yet" = up till now*

MARY: Yes, I have. / No, I haven't (yet).

MARY: I'm taking classes at Tack College.

present progressive - now and continuing action

TOM: How long have you been studying there?

present perfect progressive - how long, since when

MARY: Since last year.

TOM: *What have you been studying (since last year)?*

MARY: I've been studying web design.