Fourth Year

Lecture Two

Unit Two

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The Present Perfect and Past Perfect Tenses

The Present Perfect Tense is used to describe actions and events which have taken place in the near past.

Examples: I have ***just*** finished reading a new book.

The housekeeper has ***already*** cleaned the carpet.

The student has not done his homework ***yet***.

Have you ***ever*** been to London?

We have ***never*** missed a lecture.

Note: The words in italics and bold type are the ***adverbs of time*** used with the present perfect tense.

The Past Perfect Tense is used to describe actions and events which had taken place in the past (far past) before another action or event that took place in the past.

Examples: I bought a large house ***after*** I had saved a lot of money.

The teacher had started the lecture ***before*** Ahmed arrived at school.

The police did not arrive at the crime scene ***until*** the suspects had fled.

The concert started ***when*** the conductor had appeared on stage.

Note: The words in italics and bold type are the adverbs of time used with the past perfect tense.

Language Focus

1. Simple verb forms see actions as a complete whole.
   Examples: He works for IBM.
   It rained all day yesterday.
   I've lost my passport.
2. Continuous verb forms see actions in progress,with a beginning and an end.
   Examples: I'm working with Jim for a couple of days.
   It was raining when I woke up.
   The company has been losing money for years.
3. State verbs don't tend to be used in the continuous.

Examples: I ***know*** Peter well.I've always liked him.

I don't ***understand*** what you are saying.