Present Perfect or Past Simple?

A quick guide
Hmm?

• The grammar was too easy – I do the Present Perfect before!
We form the Present Perfect

**Auxiliary Verb** To have + Past Participle

e.g.

- The company *has expanded* rapidly.
- I *have worked* abroad.
- The Internet *has created* new opportunities.
- They *have started* exporting to Brazil.
- Sales *have exceeded* expectations.
Compare

**Present Perfect**
- The company *has expanded* rapidly.
- I *have worked* abroad.
- They *have just started* exporting to Brazil.
- Sales *have exceeded* expectations.
- The Internet *has created* new opportunities.

**Simple Past**
- The company *expanded* rapidly in the 1990s.
- I *worked* abroad in 1997.
- They *started* exporting to Brazil last year.
- Sales *exceeded* expectations in the last quarter.
- The Internet *created* new opportunities.
USES

**Present Perfect**

- Past action - present result.
- General experience
- Recent past.
- Time is not stated.

**Simple Past**

- Single action in the past.
- Completed action in the past.
- Time is stated or understood.
**Time Line.**

**SIMPLE PAST**
- Completed action at a given time in the past.
- Time is stated or understood.
- E.g. Last Year, in 1998, When I was a child etc.

**PRESENT PERFECT**
- Action at some point in the past.
- Time is not important.
- Could be recent time or a general experience.
Which is correct?

Have you spoken to Tom this morning?

Did you speak to Tom this morning?
Go to www.menti.com

• Use code 92 60 2
• A little quiz for you!
Which tense should you use in your academic writing?

• Past or present tense mostly
• Present perfect sometimes
  – Summarizing – “This part of the report has focussed on....”
  – Generally accepted theories – “Studies have shown that...”