

17

GRAMMAR

Present perfect *He's left.*

and past simple *He left at 8.00.*

Contrast

- **Present perfect** *Sorry, he isn't here. He's left.*
We know that this is recent. We do not know when exactly he left.
Past simple *Sorry, he isn't here. He left at 8.00.*
We know exactly when he left.

- **Present perfect** *Ronaldo **has scored** a goal!*
We are interested that he has scored! We are not interested in when he did this.
Past simple *Ronaldo **scored** a goal in the second minute of the match.*
We are interested in the time when he scored.

- **Present perfect** *I've **broken** my pen. Now I can't write.*
This explains why we can't do something now.
Past simple *I **broke** my pen at school in the maths test.*
This explains what happened, where it happened and when it happened.

- **Present perfect** ***Have you been** to China?* *Yes.*
This is a question about our experiences in the past.
Past simple *When **did** you **go** to China?* *I went in 1998.*
This is a question about exactly when we went to China.

been and gone

*Kate has **been** to school.* (She went there and came back. She's at home now.)
*Kate has **gone** to school.* (She's not at home now. She's at school.)