

## Verb tense, voice and mood

### Present perfect tense



Pollution *is* a problem in this area for the last three years.



Pollution *has been* a problem in this area for the last three years.

### Explanation

The present perfect tense (*has been, have worked, has talked, have used* etc.) is used for an action that started in the past and is still continuing (or just finishing).

*She has worked for us for two years* implies that she is still with us, (or just about to leave). Compare this with: *She worked for us for two years*. Here the use of the simple past tense suggests that she is no longer working for us.

**Note:** The word *since* (indicating from a particular point in time) requires a present perfect tense. For example: *He has been studying hard since Tuesday*.

### More Examples

- The architect *works / has worked / worked* on the plans every day for the last fortnight. (Since the action started in the past and continues, or has just finished, use the present perfect: *has worked*.)
- Until this moment, I *have / have had / had* a tendency to underrate your abilities. (Use the present perfect: *have had* because the tendency continues right up to the present moment.)
- Since he *has suffered / suffered / had suffered* indignities in the past, he was placed under special supervision when he arrived. (The word *since* in this context means *because* and does not necessarily need a present perfect. In fact the past perfect *had suffered* is best because he suffered before he arrived. [See rule C01])