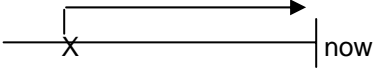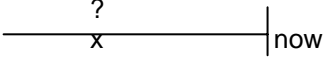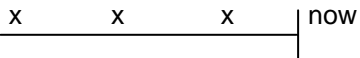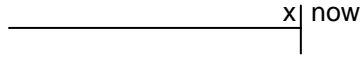# 36. USING THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE (*it has caused…*)

FUNCTION	EXAMPLES	FORM
To describe an action or event that started in the past and continues to the present. The words *since* or *for* are often used in the sentence. X————→ now ▪ *For* is used when referring to a period of time. ▪ *Since* is used when referring to a particular time. **Tip:** if you are not sure whether to use the present perfect or the simple past, ask yourself if the action is still going on. If it is, use the present perfect.	▪ *The police <u>have tried</u> to solve this murder for ten years* ▪ *The police <u>have tried</u> to solve this murder since 1997.*	*have/has* **+ past participle** ▪ **For regular verbs,** the past participle form is formed by adding *–d* or *–ed* to the simple form of the verb. ▪ **For irregular verbs,** you need to memorize the past participle form. For a list of irregular verbs and their past participle forms, see: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/ handouts/esl/eslirrverb.html
To talk about something that happened at a time in the past that is either unknown or unimportant. In such cases, time adverbs such as *ever, never, already, yet,* and *still* are often used. ? x————— now	▪ *The community members <u>have</u> **already** <u>submitted</u> a proposal to improve the library.* ▪ *<u>Have</u> you **ever** <u>wondered</u> how different life would be a hundred years from now?*	
To talk about an activity that happened repeatedly and is likely to continue or happen again. x x x now	▪ *Americans <u>have celebrated</u> Independence Day for over two hundred years.* ▪ *The inspectors <u>have visited</u> the hospital many times.*	
To talk about something that happened very recently (right before the present moment.) In such cases, the adverb *just* is often used. x now	▪ *The economy <u>has</u> **just** <u>begun</u> to recover.* ▪ *The war <u>has</u> **just** <u>ended</u> but there is still great suffering in the country.*	