

# 8 Past Simple (I lived) or Present Perfect (I have lived)

Compare the Past Simple and the Present Perfect:

<p><b>1</b> We use the Past Simple to talk about something that happened at a particular time in the past:  <i>I met John at 4 o'clock.</i>  <i>When did Jane go to India? ~ In June.</i>  <i>Martin bought a new car last week.</i></p>	<p>We use the Present Perfect to talk about the past, but not about when things happened:  <i>I've met John's girlfriend. She's nice.</i>  <i>Have you ever been to India? ~ Yes, I have.</i>  <i>I have never bought a new car.</i></p>
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<p><b>2</b> We use the Past Simple for situations or actions during a period of time that ENDED in the past:  <i>I worked there for two years. I left last year.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">past</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; margin-left: 100px;">now</span> </p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <i>I worked there for 2 years.</i> </div> <p><i>We lived in that house for a long time; then we moved to this one.</i></p> <p><i>Our company opened two new shops last summer.</i></p>	<p>We use the Present Perfect for situations or actions during a period of time from the past TO NOW:  <i>He has worked here for two years.</i>          (He still works here.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">past</span> <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px; margin-left: 100px;">now</span> </p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <i>He has worked here for 2 years.</i> </div> <p><i>We've lived in this flat since we got married.</i>          (We still live in it.)</p> <p><i>We opened two shops last summer.</i>  <i>Since then, we have opened two more.</i>          (Since then = since that time)</p>
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**3** Notice how we often move from the Present Perfect to the Past Simple:

Peter: *Have you ever played this game before?*  
 Maria: *Yes, I played it once when I was in England.*  
 Peter: *Did you win?*  
 Maria: *No, I lost.*

## Practice

**A** Complete the conversation by choosing the correct form in brackets ( ).

Sarah: <sup>0</sup> *Have you ever been* \_\_\_\_\_ (Have you ever been / Did you ever go) to the United States?  
 Jim: Yes, <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (I've been / I went) to California last year.  
 Sarah: <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (Have you liked / Did you like) it?  
 Jim: Yes, <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (I've enjoyed / I enjoyed) the trip a lot.  
 Sarah: What <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (have you done / did you do) there?  
 Jim: <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (I've visited / I visited) Hollywood, Disneyland and San Francisco.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ (Have you been / Did you go) to California, Sarah?  
 Sarah: No, but <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (I've booked / I booked) a holiday there.  
 I've got my ticket and I'm going next week!

**B Complete the dialogues using the Present Perfect (*I have seen*) or Past Simple (*I saw*).**

A: I <sup>0</sup> *saw* \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Jack last night.

B: Oh really. I <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not / see) him for months. How is he?

A: We <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the theatre last Saturday.

B: <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / enjoy) the play?

A: Yes, it <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very good.

A: I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (never / hear) of this group before. Are they famous in your country?

B: Yes, they are very popular. They <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) famous in my country for years.

A: What <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) last weekend?

B: I <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (stay) at home. I <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (need) a rest.

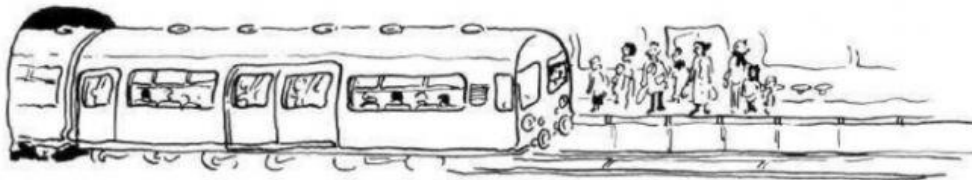
A: <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / ever / win) a competition?

B: Yes, I <sup>11</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (win) a photographic competition in 1992.

A: So, John is your best friend. <sup>12</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / meet) him when you were at university?

B: Yes. We <sup>13</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (be) friends for more than ten years.

**C Complete this paragraph about the London Underground by putting in the Present Perfect or Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets ( ).**



**The London Underground**

London <sup>0</sup> *has had* \_\_\_\_\_ (have) an underground train system since the 19th Century. The London Underground <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (start) in 1863, when Victorian engineers and workers <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (build) the Metropolitan railway. This railway line <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) from Paddington Station to Farringdon Street Station, and steam engines <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (pull) the coaches. Eight more lines <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (open) since then. The world's first underground electric railway <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (open) in 1890. This line <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (go) from the City of London to Stockwell in South London. The most modern line is the Jubilee line, which <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (open) in 1977. Since the London Underground <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (begin), many other cities, such as New York and Moscow, <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (build) their own systems.