What's the difference? Present Perfect and Past Simple

Present Perfect Simple	Past Simple
Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present: • I've known Julie for ten years (and I still know her).	Finished actions: • I knew Julie for ten years (but then she moved away and we lost touch).
A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience): • My brother has been to Mexico three times.	A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead): • My great-grandmother went to Mexico three times.
A finished action with a result in the present: • I've lost my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now).	A finished action with no result in the present: • I lost my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday).
With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today): • I've seen John this week.	With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday): • I saw John last week.

Choose the present perfect or past simple:

1. I _____ (see) three police cars this morning (it's still morning).
2. After he _____ (arrive) home, he _____ (unpack) and _____ (go) to bed early.
3. A: What's wrong? B: I _____ (break) a glass!
4. My grandparents only _____ (know) each other for a few months before they _____ (get) married.
5. I _____ (be) in London for three years. I love it here.
6. We _____ (see) Julie last night.
7. He _____ (be) a teacher before he _____ (become) a musician.
8. When the boss _____ (walk) into the room, we _____ (know) someone was going to get fired.
9. The children _____ (break) a window in the school last week.
10. He _____ (see) that film last year.
11. Lucy _____ (break) her leg, so she can't come skiing.
12. Julie _____ (arrive)! Come and say hello!

LIVEWORKSHEETS