

NAME: _____ CARNÉ: _____

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4C Present perfect and simple past

We use the present perfect to talk about an experience in our lives. We use the present perfect to introduce a topic and say that it happened.

I've met Jennifer Lawrence.

I've been to New York.

My sister has started a new job.

When we give details about the experience (for example, when something happened, what exactly happened, who you were with, or how you felt), we use the simple past.

I've met Jennifer Lawrence. I met her in a hotel in London.

I've been to New York. I went there in 2005.

My sister has seen a shark. She was really scared.

When we ask for more details about past events, we usually use the simple past, not the present perfect.

Where did you meet Jennifer Lawrence? NOT ~~*Where have you met Jennifer Lawrence?*~~

When did you go to New York? NOT ~~*When have you been to New York?*~~

How did your sister feel? NOT ~~*How has your sister felt?*~~

We often start a conversation with the present perfect. When we give details about the experience, or ask for them, we change to the simple past.

Situation	Form	Example
Question about an experience	Present perfect	Have you ever been to Spain?
Answer	Present perfect	Yes, I have .
Details	Simple past	I went there two years ago.
Question asking for details	Simple past	Did you go to Madrid?
Answer	Simple past	No, I didn't . But I went to Valencia and Málaga.

1 Choose the correct words to complete the conversation.

A ¹*Have you ever been / Did you ever go* to Peru?

B Yes, I have. ²*I've been / I went* with some friends from college last year.

A Where ³*have you been / did you go*?

B To Machu Picchu. ⁴*It's been / It was* fantastic.

A I'd love to go there! ⁵*I've been / I went* to Lima in 2010, but not Machu Picchu.

B Machu Picchu is amazing! ⁶*We've had / We had* a great time.

A What ⁷*have you done / did you do* there?

B ⁸*We've been / We went* on some incredible hikes.

3 Write the conversation. Use the present perfect and the simple past.



A you / ever / do / karate?

B yes / I / try / it / two years ago

A what / you / think / of it?

B I / really / like / it

A where / you / learn?

B I / take / classes at the sports center