

10 Present perfect and past simple

I can use the present perfect and past simple to describe finished and unfinished events.



Present perfect

We use the present perfect to talk about events that happened in the past but we don't know when they happened, or the exact time is not important. There is often a connection to the present.

He's broken his leg. (= His leg is broken now, but I don't know when it happened.)

I've lost my phone. (= I can't find my phone and I don't know exactly when I lost it.)

We use the present perfect with 'unfinished' time expressions (for example, **never**, **ever**, **this week**, **twice, yet**). See Unit 9.

I've read three books this week.

We use the present perfect with **for** + a period of time when the event is still in progress.

I've lived here for two years. (= I live here now.)

We use the present perfect to talk about events in a living person's life.

Suzanne Collins has written some good books.
(She will probably write more books in the future.)

Past simple

We use the past simple when we talk about events that finished in the past.

I lost my old phone. I bought a new one last week.

Harry broke his leg six months ago, but he's OK now.

Did you buy a new jacket on Saturday?

What did you have for breakfast?

We use the past simple with 'finished' time expressions (for example, **yesterday**, **on Monday**, **in 2010**).

Did you go to America in 2010?

I read three books last week.

We use the past simple with **for** + a period of time when the event finished in the past.

I lived here for two years. (= I don't live here now.)

We use the past simple to talk about events in the life of someone who is now dead.

Shakespeare wrote a lot of great plays. (He died, so he won't write any more plays.)

* 1 Underline the verbs and write PP (present perfect) or PS (past simple).

- We went to France on holiday. PS
- They've listened to that song a hundred times. PP

- 1 She spent all her money at the shops. _____
- 2 They've decided to paint their bedroom. _____
- 3 I haven't finished my breakfast yet. _____
- 4 Did you pass the exam? _____

- 5 He's read all those books. _____
- 6 Has Peter used his new tennis racket? _____
- 7 Did you like the film? _____
- 8 I read the information on the website. _____
- 9 Has it snowed? _____
- 10 It didn't finish at eight o'clock. _____



2 Write these irregular past simple forms and past participles in the correct column. Remember: some words can go in both columns.

drank run had bought spoke
left written done drunk made
ran read chose spoken did
took chosen taken wrote

past simple	past participle
drank	run

3 **GAME** Work in groups of four. Student A says the infinitive form of an irregular verb, student B says the past simple form and student C says the past participle. Student D says a new verb. Continue round the group. Lose a point for any incorrect forms.

Write

Wrote

Written

Drink

4 Can you use these time expressions with the present perfect? Write ✓ or ✗.

► never ✓
► yesterday ✗
1 last week ___
2 already ___
3 in 2011 ___
4 on Monday ___
5 today ___

6 yet ___
7 three years ago ___
8 for two years ___
9 at seven o'clock ___
10 twice ___
11 after lunch ___
12 since three o'clock ___



5 Tick (✓) the correct time expression. Then write it in the correct place in the sentence.

► It snowed on Monday

on Monday already

It snowed on Monday.

1 I've been to Australia.

last year never

2 Have you found any money in the street?

yesterday ever

3 Katy started secondary school.

in 2011 already

4 They've had that car.

three years ago for three years

5 I sent you an email.

at two o'clock just

6 Fred hasn't had a shower.

before breakfast yet

7 He's decided not to go.

yesterday already

8 We've been here.

two hours ago since three o'clock

9 Did he die?

in 2001 yet

10 Have you seen William?

at two o'clock today

6 Complete the sentences or questions using the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

► Sam went to hospital last week. (Sam/go)
1 your sports kit yesterday?
(you/forget)
2 never banana ice cream. (I/eat)
3 in China three days ago. (It/snow)
4 already me your new shoes.
(you/show)
5 there for three years, but it was boring, so he found another job. (Tom/work)
6 that song since I was eleven.
(I/not hear)
7 married on 3 July, 1995.
(My parents/get)
8 ever a horse? (you/ride)
9 Vicky for her ticket yet. (not/pay)
10 Why you the bus on Monday?
(take)

7 10.1 Circle the correct option. Listen and check.

► Harry bought / has bought a new watch but then he lost it.
► I bought / have bought a new pen. Look! Do you want to try it?
1 They went / have been to Istanbul, Marmaris and Bodrum while they were in Turkey.
2 We went / have been to London and Oxford. We're really enjoying our trip to England.
3 The train arrived / has arrived. Let's get on.
4 They arrived / have arrived at six and left at half past seven.
5 Charlotte Brontë was a writer. She wrote / has written four novels.
6 Zac Ephron is an actor. He made / has made a lot of films.
7 Sam was cold because he forgot / has forgotten his coat.
8 'Can I have your homework?' 'Oh no! I forgot / have forgotten it.'
9 'Are you hungry?' 'Yes, I am. I didn't have / haven't had anything to eat today.'
10 He wasn't hungry, so he didn't eat / hasn't eaten anything.



8 10.2 Read the sentences below. Then listen to an interview with a famous architect. Are the sentences correct ✓ or incorrect ✗?

► Sandra was an architect for 30 years, but she doesn't work now. ✗
1 The Eldon School has been open for two years.
—
2 She's just won the Congress Prize in America. —
3 Sandra has lived in America for ten years. —
4 She lives in London now. —
5 They've already finished the new swimming centre. —

9 Complete the sentences with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs.

► He opened the cupboard and took out the coffee. (take)
► 'She looks happy.' 'Yes. She 's won the music competition.' (win)
1 'Would you like to watch this DVD?' 'Yes, please. I that film.' (not see)
2 The teacher entered the room and the children up. (stand)
3 The rain while she was walking home. (stop)
4 ' you a new jacket?' 'Yes. It's cool, isn't it?' (buy)
5 They went to New York but they the Museum of Modern Art. (not visit)
6 'Do you like her music?' 'Yes. I all her songs.' (download)
7 My phone isn't working. Someone it. (break)
8 you on the plane when you flew to Australia? (sleep)
9 She her homework before school. (do)
10 ' it raining?' 'Yes. Let's go and play tennis.' (stop)

10 10.3 Paul's parents are out for the day.

His mother is phoning to check if he has done his jobs. Complete the dialogue with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.



Mum: Hello, Paul. Is everything OK?
 Paul: Yes, thanks, Mum.
 Mum: Have you cleaned (clean) your room yet?
 Paul: Ah. There was a problem. I ¹_____ (get) the vacuum cleaner out and ²_____ (try) to turn it on. But it ³_____ (not work).
 Mum: Oh. That's a shame. So ⁴_____ you do the shopping?
 Paul: Well, I ⁵_____ (go) to the supermarket in the morning, but I ⁶_____ (forget) my wallet, so I couldn't actually buy anything.
 Mum: Oh, Paul! What about your homework?
⁷_____ you finish that yet?
 Paul: No, I'm sorry. I ⁸_____.
 Mum: Why not?
 Paul: Well, I ⁹_____ (lend) my maths book to Tom yesterday. So when I ¹⁰_____ (look) in my bag this morning, the book wasn't there.
 Mum: I can't believe it. So what ¹¹_____ you do today?
 Paul: I ¹²_____ (watch) TV.
 Mum: At least you ¹³_____ (not break) the TV yet!



3 read the book



4 make dinner



5 pay for the ticket

Have you done the washing-up yet?

No, I'm sorry. I cut my finger this morning, so I couldn't do it.

11

Work in pairs. Student A: ask a question with the present perfect. Student B: look at the picture and give an excuse with the past simple and a time expression.



► do the washing-up



1 phone the dentist



2 practise the guitar

12

Complete the email with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Ben

We're in England! We've been on holiday in Wales for almost two weeks.

Last week ¹_____ (not be) very good. We ²_____ (want) to go to the beach, but it ³_____ (rain) every day. So we ⁴_____ (drive) around and ⁵_____ (visit) museums. But then the car ⁶_____ (break) down. So, after that, we ⁷_____ (stay) in the apartment and ⁸_____ (argue) with each other!

But this week ⁹_____ (be) great. The weather ¹⁰_____ (improve) and we ¹¹_____ (go) to the beach every day. My brother ¹²_____ (play) tennis every day and my parents ¹³_____ (read) four books. I still ¹⁴_____ (not swim) in the sea yet, but I think I'll do that tomorrow!

See you soon!

Frank