GRAMMAR Present perfect and past simple

1 Look at the sentences below. Which are present perfect and which are past simple?

1 She lived in Sweden three years ago.

2 She learned Russian last year.

3 She's spoken Japanese since she was a baby.

4 Did you go to Spain in the holidays?

5 I've already finished mine.

6 The teacher gave it to us three days ago

2 Complete the rules with the *present perfect* or *past simple*.

1 We use the

a _____ with words and phrases like *yesterday, ago, last year, in the holidays.*

b _____ with words like *since, already, yet, just, ever.*

2 We use the

a _____ to talk about an action that began in the past but continues into the present.

b _____ to talk about someone's general life experiences.

c _____ to talk about an action that finished in the past.

d _____ to talk about an action that finished in the past, but the result is important or interesting now.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

GRAMMAR REFERENCE AND PRACTICE

FOR THE PAST SIMPLE, SEE UNIT 3 PAGE 149

FOR THE PRESENT PERFECT, SEE UNITS 13, 14 AND 15 PAGES 159–161

We use the **present perfect**:

- to talk about an action that finished in the past, but the result is important now. We are not interested in when the action happened.
  *My brother's happy because he **has won** a competition.*

We can also use the **present perfect**:

- with *ever* and *never* to talk about our experiences until now.
  *I've **never learned** French.* (= until now, but I may learn it in the future)
- with *just, already* and *yet* to talk about things we have or haven't done recently.
  *We've **just finished** eating. I **haven't read** that book **yet**.*
- to talk about an action or situation which started in the past and continues into the present. We use *for* and *since* to say how long it has been happening.
  ***How long have** you **lived** here?*
  *I've **lived** here **since** 2005.*

We use the **past simple**:

- to talk about an action that happened in the past.
  *My brother **won** a competition.*
- when we are interested in when the action happened.
  *My brother **won** the competition **last week**.*

We can also use the **past simple**:

- to talk about experiences which happened over a time in the past.
  *When my dad **lived** in France for a month, he **didn't learn** French.* (= this time is finished. My dad doesn't live in France now.)

Remember, when we ask questions about a time in the past, we use *When …?*
***When did** you **learn** to ride a bike?*
*I **learned** to ride a bike **when** I was five years old.*

1 Complete the table with these time expressions.

already ever for 18 weeks in 2008
~~just~~ last week never recently
since 5th May three days ago
when I was younger ~~yesterday~~ yet

Present perfect	Past simple
just	*yesterday*

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2 Complete the sentences with the present perfect or past simple form of the verb in brackets.

1 I _____ (buy) this bag when I was on holiday.

2 I _____ (not be) ill for a long time.

3 My best friend was late for school this morning because she _____ (miss) the bus.

4 We _____ (send) an email to our teacher three days ago, but she _____ (not answer) yet.

5 My mum and dad _____ (know) each other since they were children. They _____ (go) to school together.

6 You _____ (make) a lot of mistakes! Please write this story again.

3 Write complete questions with *How long … ?* and the present perfect. Then, write your own answer with the present perfect.

0 How long / live here?
How long have you lived here?
I've lived here for six years.

1 How long / know your English teacher?

2 How long / like your favourite band?

4 Now, write complete questions with *When … ?* Then, write your own answer with the past simple.

0 When / start learning English?
When did you start learning English?
I started learning English four years ago.

1 When / learn to swim?

2 When / use a computer for the first time?

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3 Match the sentences to the uses of the *present perfect* and *past simple* in the popup box.

1 Have you done the German homework yet?

2 I've noticed you're all using a good level of vocabulary these days.

3 Did you meet anyone interesting?

4 I haven't missed any lessons this term.

5 She's lived all over the world!

6 She hasn't learned much English yet.

7 I've just heard some amazing news!

8 Our French teacher has won first prize in a competition!

9 We had a lesson with her this morning.

a **present perfect**: to talk about an action that began in the past but continues into the present.

b **past simple**: to talk about someone's general life experiences.

c **past simple**: to talk about an action that finished in the past.

d **present perfect**: to talk about an action that finished in the past, but the result is important or interesting now.

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4 **Complete the text with the *present perfect* or *past simple* form of the verbs in brackets.**

An amazing language learner



Susanna Zaraysky **(1)** _____ (study) 11 languages (English, Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Croatian, Ladino, Hebrew, Arabic and Hungarian) and speaks eight of them. Susanna **(2)** _____ (be) born in Russia and first **(3)** _____ (learn) English when she **(4)** _____ (move) to California. She **(5)** _____ (study) French and Spanish at school. Then, one day, she **(6)** _____ (hear) some tourists speaking in Italian and **(7)** _____ (decide) to learn that language. Portuguese came next and then all her other languages.

Susanna **(8)** _____ (write) several books and **(9)** _____ (be) on TV many times. She **(10)** _____ (have) a special interest in language and music for many years. On her blog, you'll find many interesting articles about this as well as video clips and language learning advice.

5 **Choose the correct verb form to complete each sentence.**

1. Yesterday, I *have watched* / *watched* a swimming competition with my brother.
2. I *already bought* / *have already bought* the tickets for the film tonight.
3. I'm in Melbourne, and I *saw* / *have seen* the beach and the sea.
4. My friend John *has watched* / *watched* the competition with me.
5. We *have arrived* / *arrived* home at eight o'clock in the evening.
6. It was a great party. We *have danced* / *danced* all night and *have eaten* / *ate* too much food!

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6 Complete the conversations with the *present perfect* or *past simple* of the verbs in brackets.

1 A: _____ (do) your homework yet, Tania?

B: Yes, I _____ (finish) it an hour ago.

2 A: Where _____ (you go) on holiday last summer, Robin?

B: We _____ (go) to New York to visit my sister.

She _____ (live) there since 2014.

3 A: _____ (you ever eat) curry?

B: Yes, I _____ (have) some yesterday. Delicious!

4 A: _____ (you enjoy) the *Toy Story* films when you were little, Sergio?

B: I _____ (never see) any of the *Toy Story* films.

But I _____ (like) *Despicable Me*.

7 In pairs, make conversations. Ask a question in the present perfect, and answer in the simple past. Use the conversations in Exercise 6 for ideas.

LIVEWORKSHEETS