



Grammar 2

Past simple, present perfect simple

NAME :

1 Read about past simple vs present perfect simple.

In general, we use the past simple to talk about a completed action that happened at a specific time in the past. We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that happened at an unspecified time in the past or that happened in the past, but that is still relevant to the present.

I went to Spain to see Barcelona play in 2011.

(specific time in the past)

I've been to Spain to see Barcelona play.

(unspecified time in the past)

The important point to remember is that the present perfect simple always has a connection with now, whereas the past simple only tells us about the past.

We also use the present perfect simple to give new information, but when we continue talking about it, we usually use the past simple.

A: 'I've seen Barcelona play.'

B: 'When did you see them?'

A: 'I saw them in 2011.'

2 Complete the sentences with the past simple or the present perfect simple.

- 1 We use _____ with time expressions such as *ago*, *in 1990* and *the other day*.
- 2 We use _____ with time expressions such as *just*, *already*, *recently* and *so far*.

Read 3.4 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 Circle the correct words.

- 1 I **just put on** / **have just put on** my football kit.
- 2 Maria **has already scored** / **already scored** five points!
- 3 **Did they spend** / **Have they spent** their holiday hiking in Greece last summer?
- 4 Theo **has taken** / **took** tennis lessons in 2005.
- 5 My friend **has been** / **was** at a rugby match two days ago.
- 6 I **didn't watch** / **haven't watched** an ice hockey game so far.
- 7 Last week Helen and Iris **went** / **have gone** to the new sports arena.
- 8 He can't play squash because he still **didn't buy** / **hasn't bought** a racket.
- 9 **Did you ever see** / **Have you ever seen** a rugby game?
- 10 We **have waited** / **waited** at the golf course for two hours ... where were you?



4 Complete the dialogues. Use the past simple or the present perfect simple.

- 1 A: Last night I _____ (go) to a boxing match!
B: Oh, I _____ (already be) to two boxing matches.
- 2 A: Do you know that Joe _____ (work) at the sports arena for fifteen years?
B: Really? I thought he _____ (start) working there five years ago.
- 3 A: _____ (you / ever meet) a famous athlete?
B: Well, I _____ (see) Laila Ali box.
A: Wow! I _____ (watch) her father, Muhammad Ali, fight once. Sadly, he doesn't box anymore.
- 4 A: Tony _____ (break) his leg!
B: Really? How _____ (it happen)?
A: He _____ (fall) while he was skiing.
- 5 A: Yesterday I _____ (leave) the flat and _____ (ride) my bike to the gym. Then I _____ (realise) that I _____ (not have) my trainers with me.
B: Oh, no! That _____ (happen) to me before. What _____ (do)?
A: I _____ (call) Mum to bring them to me.
- 6 A: How long ago _____ (you / begin) coaching baseball?
B: Ten years ago. I _____ (recently take) a team to the national finals ... and we _____ (win)!