

8 Past Simple (I lived) or Present Perfect (I have lived)

Compare the Past Simple and the Present Perfect:

1 We use the Past Simple to talk about something that happened at a particular time in the past: <i>I met John at 4 o'clock.</i> <i>When did Jane go to India? ~ In June.</i> <i>Martin bought a new car last week.</i>	We use the Present Perfect to talk about the past, but not about when things happened: <i>I've met John's girlfriend. She's nice.</i> <i>Have you ever been to India? ~ Yes, I have.</i> <i>I have never bought a new car.</i>
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2 We use the Past Simple for situations or actions during a period of time that ENDED in the past: <i>I worked there for two years. I left last year.</i> past I worked there for 2 years. now <i>We lived in that house for a long time; then we moved to this one.</i> <i>Our company opened two new shops last summer.</i>	We use the Present Perfect for situations or actions during a period of time from the past to NOW: <i>He has worked here for two years.</i> <i>(He still works here.)</i> past He has worked here for 2 years. now <i>We've lived in this flat since we got married.</i> <i>(We still live in it.)</i> <i>We opened two shops last summer.</i> <i>Since then, we have opened two more.</i> <i>(Since then = since that time)</i>
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- 3** Notice how we often move from the Present Perfect to the Past Simple:
- Peter: ***Have** you ever **played** this game before?*
 Maria: *Yes, I **played** it once when I was in England.*
 Peter: ***Did** you win?*
 Maria: *No, I **lost**.*

Practice

A Complete the conversation by choosing the correct form in brackets ().

- Sarah: ⁰ *Have you ever been* (Have you ever been / Did you ever go) to the United States?
- Jim: Yes, ¹ (I've been / I went) to California last year.
- Sarah: ² (Have you liked / Did you like) it?
- Jim: Yes, ³ (I've enjoyed / I enjoyed) the trip a lot.
- Sarah: What ⁴ (have you done / did you do) there?
- Jim: ⁵ (I've visited / I visited) Hollywood, Disneyland and San Francisco.
- ⁶ (Have you been / Did you go) to California, Sarah?
- Sarah: No, but ⁷ (I've booked / I booked) a holiday there. I've got my ticket and I'm going next week!

B Complete the dialogues using the Present Perfect (*I have seen*) or Past Simple (*I saw*).

A: I ⁰ *saw* _____ (see) Jack last night.

B: Oh really. I ¹ _____ (not / see) him for months. How is he?

A: We ² _____ (go) to the theatre last Saturday.

B: ³ _____ (you / enjoy) the play?

A: Yes, it ⁴ _____ (be) very good.

A: I ⁵ _____ (never / hear) of this group before. Are they famous in your country?

B: Yes, they are very popular. They ⁶ _____ (be) famous in my country for years.

A: What ⁷ _____ (you / do) last weekend?

B: I ⁸ _____ (stay) at home. I ⁹ _____ (need) a rest.

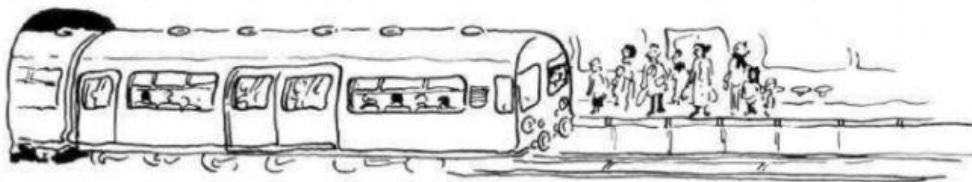
A: ¹⁰ _____ (you / ever / win) a competition?

B: Yes, I ¹¹ _____ (win) a photographic competition in 1992.

A: So, John is your best friend. ¹² _____ (you / meet) him when you were at university?

B: Yes. We ¹³ _____ (be) friends for more than ten years.

C Complete this paragraph about the London Underground by putting in the Present Perfect or Past Simple forms of the verbs in brackets ().



The London Underground

London ⁰ *has had* _____ (have) an underground train system since the 19th Century. The London Underground ¹ _____ (start) in 1863, when Victorian engineers and workers ² _____ (build) the Metropolitan railway. This railway line ³ _____ (go) from Paddington Station to Farringdon Street Station, and steam engines ⁴ _____ (pull) the coaches. Eight more lines ⁵ _____ (open) since then. The world's first underground electric railway ⁶ _____ (open) in 1890. This line ⁷ _____ (go) from the City of London to Stockwell in South London. The most modern line is the Jubilee line, which ⁸ _____ (open) in 1977. Since the London Underground ⁹ _____ (begin), many other cities, such as New York and Moscow, ¹⁰ _____ (build) their own systems.