

HOW DO I KNOW WHETHER TO USE Past Simple or Present Perfect?

1 Is the action finished? 2 Do we know when? 3 Is the time finished?

IF the answer to all of these is YES, use past simple. If not, use present perfect.

<u>PAST SIMPLE</u>		<u>PRESENT PERFECT</u>		
<u>Positive</u>				
Subject	past	Subject	HAVE HAS	past participle
<i>I you we they he she it</i>	<i>ate</i>	<i>I you we they he she it</i>	<i>have</i>	<i>eaten</i>
<u>Negative</u>				
Subject	DID NOT	infinitive	Subject	HAVE HAS
<i>I you we they he she it</i>		<i>didn't eat</i>	<i>I you we they he she it</i>	<i>NOT past participle</i>
<i>I you we they he she it</i>			<i>haven't</i>	<i>eaten</i>
<i>I you we they he she it</i>			<i>hasn't</i>	
<u>Question</u>				
Did	Subject	infinitive	HAVE HAS	Subject
<i>I you we they he she it</i>		<i>eat?</i>		<i>past participle</i>
<i>Did</i>	<i>I you we they he she it</i>	<i>eat?</i>	<i>Have</i>	<i>I you we they</i>
			<i>Has</i>	<i>he she it</i>
				<i>eaten?</i>

Practice

A Fill in the boxes with **Y** or **N** - it's only past simple if the answer is yes to all three.

B Complete the sentence with the correct verb in the past simple or present perfect.

	Is the action finished?	Do we know when?	Is the time finished?
1. James lives in Birmingham. He <u>has lived</u> (live) there for 12 years.	N	Y	Y
2. Julie is a doctor. She _____ (work) at the same hospital since 2006.			
3. Annie _____ (work) in a hospital when she was young.			
4. I _____ (visit) Florence several times. I'm going there again next summer.			
5. Joseph _____ (go) to several countries when he was in the army.			
6. Benfica _____ (lose) to Sporting last night.			
7. Manchester United _____ (play) well so far this season.			
8. Alison _____ (never visit) the Tower of London, but today she will.			
9. Leo Tolstoy _____ (write) 'War and Peace', among many other books.			
10. Since the 1960s computers _____ (become) much smaller.			
11. Vannevar Bush _____ (build) the analogue computer in 1930.			
12. In the 1960s children _____ (not play) computer games.			
13. In many countries unemployment _____ (increase) because of the introduction of computers.			