

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 |
| <div> I you we they he she it </div> | | ate | <div> I you we they </div> <div> he she it </div> | <div>have</div> <div>has</div> | eaten |
| <u>Negative</u> | | | | | |
| Subject | DID NOT | infinitive | Subject | HAVE HAS | NOT past participle |
| <div> I you we they he she it </div> | | didn't eat | <div> I you we they </div> <div> he she it </div> | <div>haven't</div> <div>hasn't</div> | eaten |
| <u>Question</u> | | | | | |
| Did | Subject | infinitive | HAVE HAS | Subject | past participle |
| Did | <div> I you we they he she it </div> | eat? | <div>Have</div> <div>Has</div> | <div> I you we they </div> <div> he she it </div> | eaten? |

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. | | | |