

## Present perfect simple and past simple

### Present perfect simple

We use the present perfect simple:

- to talk about an experience in somebody's life.  
(We don't say when it happened.)  
*He's **had** a mobile phone for a long time.*
- with *for* and *since* to talk about an action that started in the past and continues to the present.  
*Tim's **known** Kate since he was ten.*
- with *just*, *yet* and *already* for a past action with a result in the present.  
*I've **just bought** a new mountain bike.*

### Past simple

We use the past simple to talk about a finished action that happened at a definite time in the past.  
*We **saw** John at the weekend.*

#### 1 Choose the correct words.

- They've **already** / **yet** visited Venice.
- Have you **ever** / **never** seen a ghost?
- Has she finished work **just** / **yet**?
- They've been married **for** / **since** October.
- Lucy has worked in the circus **since** / **for** she was a child.
- David has **just** / **yet** got back from holiday.

#### 2 Complete the newspaper extracts. Use the correct form of the present perfect simple or past simple.

Last night a massive tidal wave <sup>1</sup>..... (hit) the coast of Mexico. Over 5,000 people <sup>2</sup>..... (already / lose) their homes.

Yesterday a girl <sup>3</sup>..... (hand in) a briefcase containing £100,000 to the police. The girl found the briefcase at Euston railway station.

The cost of living in Britain <sup>4</sup>..... (rise) again. Last year prices in British supermarkets <sup>5</sup>..... (increase) by more than five per cent.

#### 3 Complete the text. Use the correct form of the present perfect simple or past simple.

<sup>1</sup>..... you ..... (ever / dream) of being a film star? Leonardo DiCaprio was only five years old when he <sup>2</sup>..... (star) in his first TV show, and just thirteen when he <sup>3</sup>..... (appear) in his first film. Since then he <sup>4</sup>..... (not stop) working. He <sup>5</sup>..... (be) in over fifteen films and he <sup>6</sup>..... (work) with stars such as Robert De Niro and Johnny Depp.

Leonardo <sup>7</sup>..... (be) born in Los Angeles in 1974. After appearing in TV shows, he <sup>8</sup>..... (get) his first film role in Critters 3, then he starred in Romeo and Juliet. But it <sup>9</sup>..... (not be) until Titanic that he <sup>10</sup>..... (become) a world-famous teen idol. It was then that Leonardo <sup>11</sup>..... (begin) to appear on magazine covers around the world.

Since Titanic, Leonardo <sup>12</sup>..... (be) very busy. He <sup>13</sup>..... (already / make) three more films and <sup>14</sup>..... (just / start) work on another.

#### 4 Write questions about Leonardo. Use the present perfect simple or past simple.

- How old / when / first appear / on TV?  
.....
- ever / meet / Robert De Niro?  
.....
- How long / be / an actor?  
.....
- famous / before Titanic?  
.....
- How many / films / make / since Titanic?  
.....