Unit 13

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key. *(present perfect)*
This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.
Has he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.
Did he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.
He **lost** his key *(past simple)*
but now he **has found** it. *(present perfect)*

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They**'ve gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
  They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
  It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I**'ve repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
  (*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I**'ve burnt** myself.
  B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
  A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)

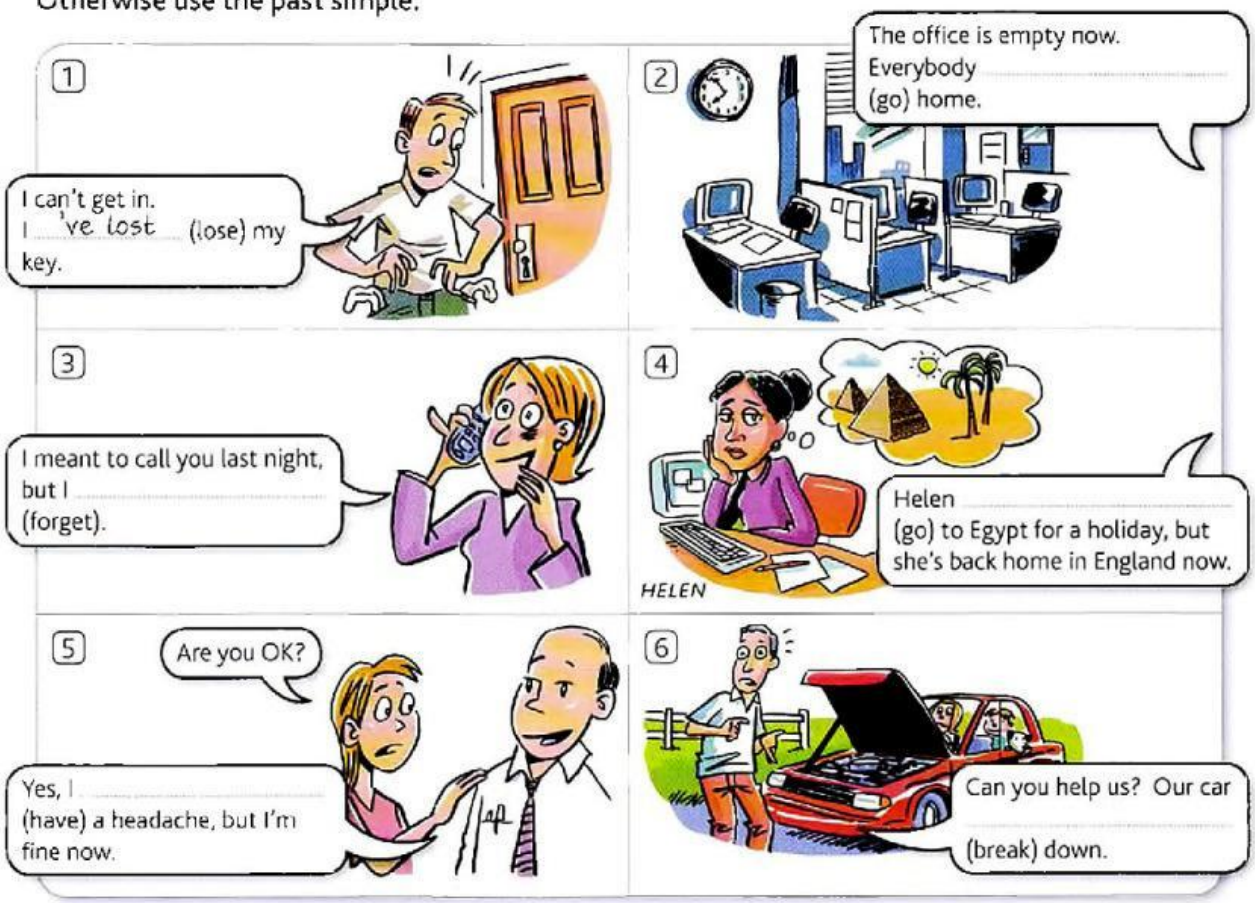
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
  B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

Past simple → Unit 5 Present perfect → Units 7–8 Present perfect and past 2 → Unit 14
American English → Appendix 7

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

13.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.



13.2 Are the <u>underlined</u> parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1 Did you hear about Sue? <u>She's given</u> up her job. OK
2 My mother <u>has grown</u> up in Italy. grew
3 How many poems <u>has William Shakespeare written</u>?
4 Ow! <u>I've cut</u> my finger. It's bleeding.
5 Drugs <u>have become</u> a big problem everywhere.
6 Who <u>has invented</u> paper?
7 Where <u>have you been born</u>?
8 Ellie isn't at home. <u>She's gone</u> shopping.
9 Albert Einstein <u>has been</u> the scientist who <u>has developed</u> the theory of relativity.

13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

1 It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
2 The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
3 I studied German at school, but ..... most of it now. (I / forget)
4 The police ..... three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
5 What do you think of my English? Do you think ..... ? (it / improve)
6 A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, ... with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
7 ..... for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
8 Where's my bike? ..... outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
9 Quick! We need to call an ambulance. ..... an accident. (there / be)
10 A: Have you heard about Ben? ..... his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How ..... ? (that / happen)
A: ..... off a ladder. (he / fall)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Unit 14

Present perfect and past 2 (**I have done** and **I did**)

A

Do not use the present perfect (**I have done**) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, **yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 2005 / when I was a child**). Use a past tense:

- It **was** very cold **yesterday**. (*not* has been)
- Paul and Lucy **arrived ten minutes ago**. (*not* have arrived)
- **Did** you **eat** a lot of sweets **when you were a child**? (*not* have you eaten)
- I **got** home late **last night**. I **was** very tired and **went** straight to bed.

Use the past to ask **When** ... ? or **What time** ... ?:

- **When did** your friends **arrive**? (*not* have ... arrived)
- **What time did** you **finish** work?

Compare:

Present perfect

- Tom **has lost** his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or **has** she **left**?

Past simple

- Tom **lost** his key **yesterday**. He couldn't get into the house.
- **When did** Carla **leave**?

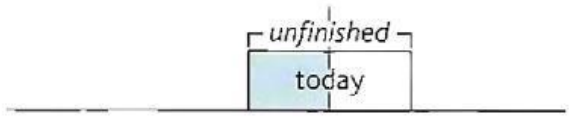
B

Compare:

Present perfect (**have done**)

- **I've done** a lot of work **today**.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *until now*. For example: **today / this week / since 2007**.

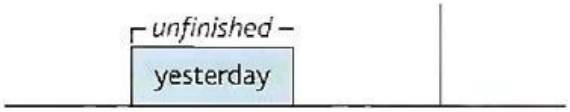


- It **hasn't rained this week**.
- **Have** you **seen** Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning)
- **Have** you **seen** Tim **recently**?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We**'ve been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives in Los Angeles. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- I **have never played** golf. (in my life)
- *It's the last day of your holiday. You say:* It**'s been** a really good holiday. I**'ve** really **enjoyed** it.

Past simple (**did**)

- **I did** a lot of work **yesterday**.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example: **yesterday / last week / from 2007 to 2010**.



- It **didn't rain last week**.
- **Did** you **see** Anna **this morning**? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- **Did** you **see** Tim **on Sunday**?
- A: **Was** Lisa at the party **on Sunday**?
  B: I don't think so. I **didn't** see her.
- We **waited** (*or* **were waiting**) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Jack **lived** in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles.
- I **didn't play** golf **last summer**.
- *After you come back from holiday you say:* It **was** a really good holiday. I really **enjoyed** it.

Past simple → Unit 5 Present perfect → Units 7–8 Present perfect and past 1 → Unit 13

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere. OK
2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child? Did you eat
3 I've bought a new car. You must come and see it.
4 I've bought a new car last week.
5 Where have you been yesterday evening?
6 Lucy has left school in 1999.
7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him?
8 'Have you been to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.'
9 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten much today.
10 When has this book been published?

14.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

1 (it / not / rain / this week) It hasn't rained this week.
2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather
3 (it / cold / last week) It
4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I
5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today)
6 (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year)
7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year)
8 (you / have / a holiday recently?)

14.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

1 'What's Madrid like?' 'I don't know. I haven't been (I / not / be) there.'
2 When (I / get) home last night, (I / be) very tired and (I / go) straight to bed.
3 A: (you / see) Lisa recently?
B: Yes, (I / saw) her a few days ago.
4 I'm tired. (I / not / sleep) well last night.
5 The bus drivers were on strike last week. (there / be) no buses.
6 Mr Lee (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then (he / give) it up. Now he works as a gardener.
7 Mary lives in Dublin. (she / live) there all her life.
8 A: (you / go) to the cinema last night?
B: Yes, but (it / be) a mistake. The film (be) awful.
9 My grandfather (die) before I was born. (I / never / meet) him.
10 I don't know Karen's husband. (I / never / meet) him.
11 It's nearly lunchtime, and (I / not / see) Martin all morning. I wonder where he is.
12 'Where do you live?' 'In Boston.'
'How long (you / live) there?' 'Five years.'
'Where (you / live) before that?' 'In Chicago.'
'And how long (you / live) in Chicago?' 'Two years.'

14.4 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

1 (something you haven't done today) I haven't eaten any fruit today
2 (something you haven't done today)
3 (something you didn't do yesterday)
4 (something you did yesterday evening)
5 (something you haven't done recently)
6 (something you've done a lot recently)

→ Additional exercises 2–4 (pages 303–04), 14–15 (pages 310–11)

LIVEWORKSHEETS