

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

We use the **present perfect**:

- for recent actions or states, or for actions which happened at an unstated time in the past.



I **have bought** a new bicycle.
(When did he buy it? We don't know.)
unstated time

- for actions or states which began in the past and continue up to the present.



I **have been** a teacher for two years.
(He is still a teacher.)

Time expressions used with the present perfect:

just, ever, never, already, yet, always, how long, so far, for, since, recently, etc.

We use the **past simple**:

- for actions or states which finished at a stated time in the past.



I **bought** this bicycle five years ago.
(When did he buy it? Five years ago.)
stated time

- for actions or states which finished in the past.



I **was** a student fourteen years ago.
(He isn't a student now. He is a teacher.)

Time expressions used with the past simple:

yesterday, last night / week / month / year, ago, then, when, in 2004, etc.

8 Circle the correct item.

- I haven't tidied my room **just / yet**.
- We went to the cinema **already / yesterday**.
- Helen has **already / yet** had her breakfast.
- The children have **never / ever** been to Italy.
- I didn't play football **yet / last weekend**.
- I sent you an email two days **already / ago** but you haven't replied.
- Billy took a test **already / three days ago**.
- Tonia has sent twenty invitations **yesterday / so far**.
- She hasn't watched any new films **yesterday / recently**.
- Has Ben gone to school **then / yet**?

9 Fill in the gaps with **yet, ago, ever, last night, for or since**.

- My father went to Spain two days ... **ago** ...
- He has known her 2001.
- She hasn't finished her work
- Have you seen an elephant?
- We went to bed at 10 o'clock
- He has lived in Madrid ten years.

10 Choose the correct item.

1 I a new dress yesterday.
 A buy B bought
 C have bought

2 She anything since 9 o'clock this morning.
 A hasn't eaten B ate
 C didn't eat

3 He to school last week. He was ill.
 A hasn't gone B went
 C didn't go

4 I such a delicious cake.
 A have never eaten B have ever eaten
 C never ate

5 you me last night?
 A Have, called B Do, call
 C Did, call

6 She married in 2008.
 A has got B got
 C have got

7 Jane painting.
 A always like B always has liked
 C has always liked

8 I TV last night.
 A didn't watch B haven't watched
 C hasn't watched

9 They their homework yet.
 A have finished B haven't finished
 C finished

10 Last year, the Smiths to Australia.
 A have gone B went
 C have never gone

11 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect.

1 Kevin .. *has lost*... (**lose**) his keys. He (**leave**) them on the bus yesterday.

2 I (**not/play**) tennis since I was at school but I (**be**) very good at it back then.

3 Mr and Mrs Little (**visit**) Egypt. They (**go**) there on holiday in 2007.

4 A: you (**choose**) a dress for the party yet?
 B: Yes, I (**buy**) one yesterday.

5 A: you (**see**) any new films lately?
 B: Yes, I (**watch**) the new James Bond film last week.

6 I think our teacher (**forget**) about the test! He (**not/say**) anything about it in the last lesson!

7 Sarah (**break**) her leg. She (**fall**) off a horse last week.

8 A: (**you/sell**) your house yet?
 B: Yes, some people (**see**) it last month and (**buy**) it.

9 I (**finish**) decorating my room. I (**paint**) it last week and I (**put up**) the new curtains last night.

10 They (**lose**) their cat. It (**run**) away last week.

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a) Ann: 1) *Did you go* (you/go) on holiday last year?
 Costas: Yes, I 2) (go) to Spain. 3) (you/ever/be) there?
 Ann: Yes, I 4) (go) there two years ago.

b) Maria: I 5) (sell) my old radio.
 Helen: Really? When 6) (you/sell) it?
 Maria: I 7) (sell) it yesterday.

c) Ian: I 8) (go) to the new sports centre yesterday.
 Josh: Really? I 9) (not/be) there yet. What's it like?
 Ian: It's fantastic! I 10) (never/see) anything like it before.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect.



I 1) *'ve been* (be) a ski instructor for many years now. I 2) (take up) the sport when I 3) (be) at school. I still remember the first time I 4) (try) to ski. I 5) (slip) on the ice and 6) (break) my ankle. Thankfully, I 7) (not/have) a serious accident since then. Last year, I 8) (try) ice-skating for the very first time. I 9) (slip) on the ice rink a couple of times since then but I 10) (not/break) anything. Two years ago, I 11) (take) snowboarding lessons. I 12) (not/like) it because I 13) (find) it a little dangerous. I 14) (not/play) ice-hockey yet. There's a game tomorrow. I can't wait to go!



Brain Gym

In 5 minutes, write 3 things you have already done today and 3 things you did yesterday.

