

## 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 ..... *left*..... (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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Put the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *past simple*.

- 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.

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