Cambridge Grammar

Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple & Continuous

Read the theory and solve.

1 **Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.**

1	He's talked to her on the phone	A	for years.
2	This summer the pool was only open	B	on my way home from school yesterday.
3	The whole team felt exhausted	C	since nine o'clock this morning.
4	The rent of my flat has gone up	D	when the match finished.
5	She's had nothing to eat	E	ever since she was very young.
6	I got very wet	F	by 20 per cent this year.
7	I spent a month in Brazil	G	a few minutes ago.
8	She's always enjoyed painting	H	from April till September.
9	I haven't had such a good time	I	in 2002.
10	This text arrived	J	every night this week.

2 **Fill in the gaps with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs.**

1 This is only the second time I 've ever flown (*ever fly*) in an aeroplane.

2 The child _____ (*sleep*) from seven till seven without waking once.

3 Gabriella _____ (*grow*) five centimetres since last month.

4 I _____ (*send*) Ed three emails last week but he _____ (*not reply*) to any of them yet.

5 _____ (*you / learn*) to play chess when you were a child?

6 I _____ (*buy*) this bicycle five years ago and I _____ (*use*) it every day since then.

7 How long _____ (*you / have*) that bad cough?

8 The train _____ (*just arrive*), so hurry and you might catch it.

9 I _____ (*never see*) such a beautiful rainbow before.

10 I _____ (*dream*) about a beautiful desert island last night.

11 On Sunday we _____ (*meet*) outside the cinema as usual.

12 When _____ (*you / get*) that jacket? I _____ (*not notice*) it before.

3 **Choose the correct verb forms in these sentences by Cambridge First candidates.**

1 I think that my friend Andrew *has worked* / *has been working* too hard recently and needs a rest.

2 I *have been working* / *worked* with children when I was at university.

3 How many times *have you eaten* / *have you been eating* Japanese food?

4 Since I left school in the summer I *have been doing* / *have done* a holiday job.

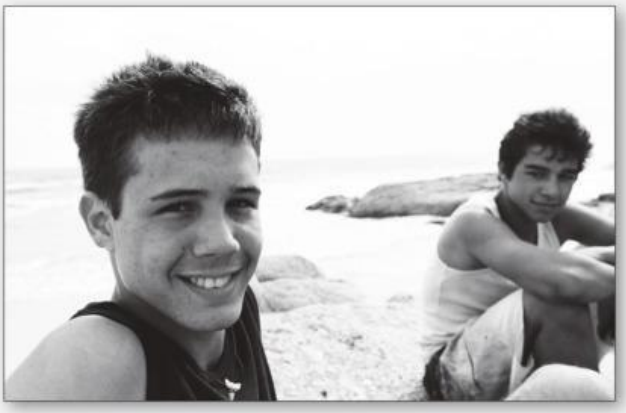
5 Two years ago I *did* / *have done* a course in coaching basketball.

6 I am so happy to receive your invitation. I *have waited* / *have been waiting* for it for ages!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Fill in the gaps with suitable verbs in the present perfect or the past simple.**

Hi from Richard in Spain



I **(1)** 've been here in Spain for two weeks now and I'm having a great time. When I **(2)** _____ at the airport I **(3)** _____ very lonely. But I **(4)** _____ (*already*) some friends and I'm staying with a very nice family. They **(5)** _____ me to the seaside last weekend and we **(6)** _____ in the sea. I really **(7)** _____ it. I **(8)** _____ some Spanish but I **(9)** _____ (*not*) to any language classes yet – they start next week.
It's now midnight and I need to go to bed as I **(10)** _____ a very busy day. I **(11)** _____ shopping this morning and I **(12)** _____ football this afternoon.

See you in a month!

5 **Read this conversation between two people in a sports club. Choose the correct verb forms.**

Anna: Excuse me. **(1)** *We've waited / We've been waiting* to play tennis since 10.30. It must be our turn now.
Tim: I don't think so.
Anna: **(2)** *We've stood / We've been standing* here patiently watching you and it's time for you to stop. How long **(3)** *have you played / have you been playing*?
Tim: Since about 9.30. **(4)** *We've played / We've been playing* two matches so far this morning and **(5)** *we haven't finished / we haven't been finishing* the third yet. You'll have to wait or do something else.
Anna: But **(6)** *you've played / you've been playing* for more than two hours and it's our turn now.
Tim: I said you'll have to wait.
Anna: We're tired of waiting and we haven't got anything to do. **(7)** *We've read / We've been reading* the magazines we brought with us.
Tim: Why don't you do something else? **(8)** *Have you tried / Have you been trying* the swimming pool?
Anna: We don't want to swim, we want to play tennis.
Tim: Well, I always play on a Saturday morning. Anyway, **(9)** *we've already started / we've already been starting* the third match.
Anna: Oh well, it looks like we've got no choice, but **(10)** *we've booked / we've been booking* for next Saturday so you'll be unlucky then.

CHALLENGE READY
Teacher Daniela.
LIVEWORKSHEETS