

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
- 2 This summer the pool was only open
- 3 The whole team felt exhausted
- 4 The rent of my flat has gone up
- 5 She's had nothing to eat
- 6 I got very wet
- 7 I spent a month in Brazil
- 8 She's always enjoyed painting
- 9 I haven't had such a good time
- 10 This text arrived

- A for years.
- B on my way home from school yesterday.
- C since nine o'clock this morning.
- D when the match finished.
- E ever since she was very young.
- F by 20 per cent this year.
- G a few minutes ago.
- H from April till September.
- I in 2002.
- 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.

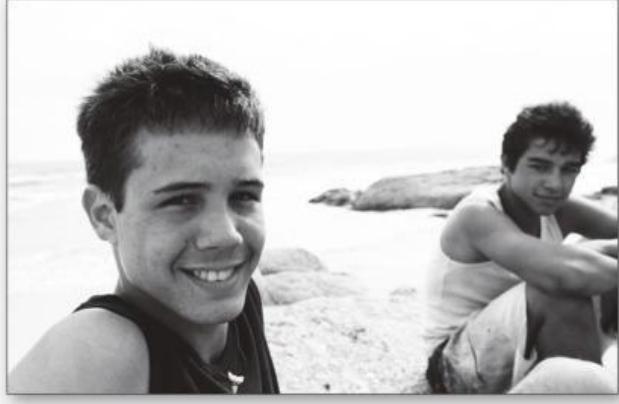
- 1 I think that my friend Andrew *has worked* / *has been working* too hard recently and needs a rest.
- 2 I *have been working* / *worked* with children when I was at university.
- 3 How many times *have you eaten* / *have you been eating* Japanese food?
- 4 Since I left school in the summer I *have 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!

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.

