

10 Present perfect and past simple

I can use the present perfect and past simple to describe finished and unfinished events.



Present perfect

We use the present perfect to talk about events that happened in the past but we don't know when they happened, or the exact time is not important. There is often a connection to the present.

*He's **broken** his leg.* (= His leg is broken now, but I don't know when it happened.)

*I've **lost** my phone.* (= I can't find my phone and I don't know exactly when I lost it.)

We use the present perfect with 'unfinished' time expressions (for example, **never, ever, this week, twice, yet**). See Unit 9.

*I've **read** three books **this week**.*

We use the present perfect with **for** + a period of time when the event is still in progress.

*I've **lived** here **for two years**.* (= I live here now.)

We use the present perfect to talk about events in a living person's life.

*Suzanne Collins **has written** some good books.*
(She will probably write more books in the future.)

Past simple

We use the past simple when we talk about events that finished in the past.

*I **lost** my old phone. I **bought** a new one last week.*

*Harry **broke** his leg six months ago, but he's OK now.*

***Did** you **buy** a new jacket on Saturday?*

*What **did** you **have** for breakfast?*

We use the past simple with 'finished' time expressions (for example, **yesterday, on Monday, in 2010**).

***Did** you **go** to America **in 2010**?*

*I **read** three books **last week**.*

We use the past simple with **for** + a period of time when the event finished in the past.

*I **lived** here **for two years**.* (= I don't live here now.)

We use the past simple to talk about events in the life of someone who is now dead.

*Shakespeare **wrote** a lot of great plays.* (He died, so he won't write any more plays.)

* 1 Underline the verbs and write PP (present perfect) or PS (past simple).

- ▶ We went to France on holiday. PS
- ▶ They've listened to that song a hundred times.

PP

- 1 She spent all her money at the shops. _____
- 2 They've decided to paint their bedroom. _____
- 3 I haven't finished my breakfast yet. _____
- 4 Did you pass the exam? _____

- 5 He's read all those books. _____
- 6 Has Peter used his new tennis racket? _____
- 7 Did you like the film? _____
- 8 I read the information on the website. _____
- 9 Has it snowed? _____
- 10 It didn't finish at eight o'clock. _____

- **2 Write these irregular past simple forms and past participles in the correct column. Remember: some words can go in both columns.

drank run had bought spoke
left written done drunk made
ran read chose spoken did
took chosen taken wrote

past simple	past participle
drank	run

- **3 **GAME** Work in groups of four. Student A says the infinitive form of an irregular verb, student B says the past simple form and student C says the past participle. Student D says a new verb. Continue round the group. Lose a point for any incorrect forms.

Write

Wrote

Written

Drink

- **4 Can you use these time expressions with the present perfect? Write ✓ or ✗.

- never ✓
► yesterday ✗
- 1 last week ____
2 already ____
3 in 2011 ____
4 on Monday ____
5 today ____
- 6 yet ____
7 three years ago ____
8 for two years ____
9 at seven o'clock ____
10 twice ____
11 after lunch ____
12 since three o'clock ____

- **5 Tick (✓) the correct time expression. Then write it in the correct place in the sentence.

on Monday
► It snowed ~~✗~~
on Monday ☒ already ☐
It snowed on Monday.

- 1 I've been to Australia.
last year ☐ never ☐

- 2 Have you found any money in the street?
yesterday ☐ ever ☐

- 3 Katy started secondary school.
in 2011 ☐ already ☐

- 4 They've had that car.
three years ago ☐ for three years ☐

- 5 I sent you an email.
at two o'clock ☐ just ☐

- 6 Fred hasn't had a shower.
before breakfast ☐ yet ☐

- 7 He's decided not to go.
yesterday ☐ already ☐

- 8 We've been here.
two hours ago ☐ since three o'clock ☐

- 9 Did he die?
in 2001 ☐ yet ☐

- 10 Have you seen William?
at two o'clock ☐ today ☐

- 6 Complete the sentences or questions using the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

- ▶ Sam went to hospital last week. (Sam/go)
- _____ your sports kit yesterday? (you/forget)
 - _____ never _____ banana ice cream. (I/eat)
 - _____ in China three days ago. (It/snow)
 - _____ already _____ me your new shoes. (you/show)
 - _____ there for three years, but it was boring, so he found another job. (Tom/work)
 - _____ that song since I was eleven. (I/not hear)
 - _____ married on 3 July, 1995. (My parents/get)
 - _____ ever _____ a horse? (you/ride)
 - Vicky _____ for her ticket yet. (not/pay)
 - Why _____ you _____ the bus on Monday? (take)

- 7 10.1 Circle the correct option. Listen and check.

- ▶ Harry bought / has bought a new watch but then he lost it.
- ▶ I bought / have bought a new pen. Look! Do you want to try it?
- They **went** / **have been** to Istanbul, Marmaris and Bodrum while they were in Turkey.
 - We **went** / **have been** to London and Oxford. We're really enjoying our trip to England.
 - The train **arrived** / **has arrived**. Let's get on.
 - They **arrived** / **have arrived** at six and left at half past seven.
 - Charlotte Brontë was a writer. She **wrote** / **has written** four novels.
 - Zac Ephron is an actor. He **made** / **has made** a lot of films.
 - Sam was cold because he **forgot** / **has forgotten** his coat.
 - 'Can I have your homework?' 'Oh no! I **forgot** / **have forgotten** it.'
 - 'Are you hungry?' 'Yes, I am. I **didn't have** / **haven't had** anything to eat today.'
 - He wasn't hungry, so he **didn't eat** / **hasn't eaten** anything.

- 8 10.2 Read the sentences below. Then listen to an interview with a famous architect. Are the sentences correct ✓ or incorrect ✗?

- ▶ Sandra was an architect for 30 years, but she doesn't work now. ✗
- The Eldon School has been open for two years. _____
 - She's just won the Congress Prize in America. _____
 - Sandra has lived in America for ten years. _____
 - She lives in London now. _____
 - They've already finished the new swimming centre. _____

- 9 Complete the sentences with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs.

- ▶ He opened the cupboard and took out the coffee. (take)
- ▶ 'She looks happy.' 'Yes. She 's won the music competition.' (win)
- 'Would you like to watch this DVD?' 'Yes, please. I _____ that film.' (not see)
 - The teacher entered the room and the children _____ up. (stand)
 - The rain _____ while she was walking home. (stop)
 - '_____ you _____ a new jacket?' 'Yes. It's cool, isn't it?' (buy)
 - They went to New York but they _____ the Museum of Modern Art. (not visit)
 - 'Do you like her music?' 'Yes. I _____ all her songs.' (download)
 - My phone isn't working. Someone _____ it. (break)
 - _____ you _____ on the plane when you flew to Australia? (sleep)
 - She _____ her homework before school. (do)
 - '_____ it _____ raining?' 'Yes. Let's go and play tennis.' (stop)

10 10.3 Paul's parents are out for the day.

His mother is phoning to check if he has done his jobs. Complete the dialogue with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

Mum: Hello, Paul. Is everything OK?

Paul: Yes, thanks, Mum.

Mum: Have you cleaned (clean) your room yet?

Paul: Ah. There was a problem. I ¹ _____ (get) the vacuum cleaner out and ² _____ (try) to turn it on. But it ³ _____ (not work).

Mum: Oh. That's a shame. So ⁴ _____ you _____ (do) the shopping?

Paul: Well, I ⁵ _____ (go) to the supermarket in the morning, but I ⁶ _____ (forget) my wallet, so I couldn't actually buy anything.

Mum: Oh, Paul! What about your homework? ⁷ _____ you _____ (finish) that yet?

Paul: No, I'm sorry. I ⁸ _____.

Mum: Why not?

Paul: Well, I ⁹ _____ (lend) my maths book to Tom yesterday. So when I ¹⁰ _____ (look) in my bag this morning, the book wasn't there.

Mum: I can't believe it. So what ¹¹ _____ you _____ (do) today?

Paul: I ¹² _____ (watch) TV.

Mum: At least you ¹³ _____ (not break) the TV yet!



3 read the book



4 make dinner



5 pay for the ticket

Have you done the washing-up yet?

No, I'm sorry. I cut my finger this morning, so I couldn't do it.

11

Work in pairs. Student A: ask a question with the present perfect. Student B: look at the picture and give an excuse with the past simple and a time expression.

► do the washing-up



1 phone the dentist



2 practise the guitar



12 Complete the email with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs in brackets.

Hi Ben

We're in England! We've been on holiday in Wales for almost two weeks.

Last week ¹ _____ (not be) very good. We ² _____ (want) to go to the beach, but it ³ _____ (rain) every day. So we ⁴ _____ (drive) around and ⁵ _____ (visit) museums. But then the car ⁶ _____ (break) down.

So, after that, we ⁷ _____ (stay) in the apartment and ⁸ _____ (argue) with each other!

But this week ⁹ _____ (be) great. The weather ¹⁰ _____ (improve) and we ¹¹ _____ (go) to the beach every day. My brother ¹² _____ (play) tennis every day and my parents ¹³ _____ (read) four books. I still ¹⁴ _____ (not swim) in the sea yet, but I think I'll do that tomorrow!

See you soon!

Frank