

PAST PERFECT

Used to describe actions completed before another action in the past.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + had + past participle + rest of the sentence.
- Negative: Subject + hadn't + past participle.
- Question: Had + subject + past participle...?

Examples:

- Affirmative: She had already left when I arrived.
- Negative: He hadn't finished his homework by the deadline.
- Question: Had you ever seen that movie before last week?

Signal Words (for present perfect too!):

- Before, after, already, just, never, by the time, until then, etc.

Notes:

- Often used with the Past Simple to show the sequence of events.
 - I had eaten (Past Perfect) before they arrived (Past Simple).

PRESENT PERFECT

Used to describe actions with a connection to the present.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + have/has + past participle + rest of the sentence.
- Negative: Subject + haven't/hasn't + past participle.
- Question: Have/Has + subject + past participle?

Examples:

- Affirmative: I have visited Rome three times.
- Negative: She hasn't finished her project yet.
- Question: Have you ever eaten sushi?

Signal Words:

- Already, yet, just, ever, never, for, since.
 - For → Period of time (e.g., for two weeks).
 - Since → Starting point (e.g., since 2010).

Notes:

- Use for experiences: I have never climbed a mountain.
- Use for recent actions: She has just left the room.
- Use for unfinished actions: We have lived here for 10 years.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Used to describe actions that started in the past and continue now, or actions that have recently stopped with a visible result.

Structure:

- Affirmative: Subject + have/has been + verb (-ing) + rest of the sentence.
- Negative: Subject + haven't/hasn't been + verb (-ing).
- Question: Have/Has + subject + been + verb (-ing)...?

Examples:

- Affirmative: She has been studying all day.
- Negative: We haven't been working on the project recently.
- Question: Have you been feeling sick...?

Signal Words:

- For, since, lately, recently, all day, all week.

Notes:

- Focus on duration: I have been reading for two hours.
- Visible results: She's tired because she has been running.

COMMON PROBLEMS / CONTRAST BETWEEN THEM

Past Simple vs. Past Continuous

- Past Simple: Completed action → I ate dinner.
- Past Continuous: Ongoing action → I was eating dinner when the phone rang.

Past Perfect vs. Past Simple

- Past Perfect: Action before another past action → She had left before he arrived.
- Past Simple: Chronological sequence → First she left, and then he arrived.

Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

- Present Perfect: Connection to now → I have finished my homework (it's done now).
- Past Simple: Completed action → I finished my homework yesterday.

Present Perfect vs. Present Perfect Continuous

- Present Perfect: Focus on result → I have read that book (it's finished).
- Present Perfect Continuous: Focus on duration → I have been reading that book (I'm still reading it).

QUICK TIPS FOR TIME EXPRESSIONS

- **Past Simple**: Specific time → Yesterday, last year, in 2000.
- **Present Perfect**: Unfinished time → This week, today, so far.
- **Present Perfect Continuous**: Duration → For hours, since morning, all day.

Exercise 2: present perfect vs present perfect continuous

- I _____ (live) in this city for five years.
- She _____ (already/read) that book twice.
- We _____ (work) on this project all morning.
- Have you ever _____ (try) sushi before?
- He _____ (just/finish) his homework.
- They _____ (study) for the test since 8 AM.
- I _____ (not/see) him in a long time.
- She _____ (clean) the house all afternoon, and she's exhausted.
- We _____ (already/watch) this movie three times.
- Have you _____ (hear) the latest news?
- The kids _____ (play) outside for hours.
- I _____ (never/eat) such a delicious cake.
- He _____ (wait) for the bus for over 20 minutes.
- She _____ (not/finish) her homework yet.
- They _____ (visit) Paris many times before.
- We _____ (paint) the walls, so the house smells of paint.
- I _____ (always/want) to travel to Japan.
- He _____ (learn) French for six months now.
- She _____ (not/be) to this restaurant before.
- We _____ (run) for an hour, and we're really tired now.
- I _____ (live) in this city for ten years, and I still discover new things.
- She _____ (clean) the kitchen all morning, but it's finally spotless now.
- They _____ (visit) Spain several times, but they have never been to Madrid.
- He _____ (study) really hard this week for his final exams.
- We _____ (already/see) that movie, so let's pick another one.
- The children _____ (play) outside for hours—they are now covered in mud!
- I _____ (not/finish) my homework yet because I was helping my sister.
- My parents _____ (always/support) my decisions, no matter what.
- He _____ (practice) the piano every day this month, and it shows in his performance.
- Lucy _____ (never/try) sushi before, but she's curious to taste it.
- The baby _____ (cry) for the past hour—can you check on him?
- We _____ (just/return) from our holiday, and we had an amazing time!
- You look tired! _____ you _____ (work) late again?
- She _____ (send) three emails already, but she hasn't received a reply.
- Jack and Emily _____ (date) for a few years now, and they're very happy.
- I _____ (read) this book all afternoon, but I still don't understand the plot.
- My brother _____ (recently/buy) a new car, and he loves it.
- How long _____ you _____ (wait) for the bus? It's taking forever!
- We _____ (try) to fix the washing machine for an hour, but it's still broken.
- I _____ (hear) about that restaurant before—it's supposed to be excellent.

Exercise 5: text, fill the gaps. (present perfect simple and continuous)

I _____ (always/love) drawing since I was a child, but over the last few years, I _____ (focus) more on digital art. It's fascinating how much technology _____ (change) the way people create art.

Recently, I _____ (work) on a big project for school—it's a poster for an environmental campaign. I _____ (spend) hours perfecting every little detail, but I think it's worth it. My teacher _____ (already/see) the draft and said it looks amazing, which made me so proud!

Apart from drawing, I _____ (also/start) learning to play the guitar. For the past six months, I _____ (take) lessons every Saturday, and I _____ (improve) so much. My fingers still hurt sometimes, but I _____ (not/give up).

My parents _____ (always/support) my hobbies. They _____ (buy) me art supplies, a new tablet for drawing, and even a guitar for my birthday last year. I _____ (use) it almost every day since then.

Now, I'm trying to balance everything. I _____ (not/have) much time for sports lately because I _____ (focus) so much on art and music. However, I _____ (play) basketball with my friends a few times this month—it's something I really enjoy whenever I get the chance.

Looking back, I _____ (achieve) a lot in the past year, and I'm so excited to see what's next. I _____ (always/dream) of becoming a professional artist, and now it finally feels possible.