

Present perfect and past simple

1 Look at sentences 1 and 2. Are the verbs past simple or present perfect?

- 1 The Irish have kept their traditions.
- 2 In the past, everyone believed in fairies.

2 Read the table. Copy and complete the rules with the present perfect or the past simple.

present perfect and past simple

We use the (1) ... to talk about:

- actions that happened in the past, but we don't specify when they happened.
- actions that began in the past and continue now.
- recent actions.

We use the (2) ... to talk about:

- completed actions in the past.
- states or repeated actions in the past.

LOOK!

We use *just* with the present perfect when we want to emphasize that we have done something very recently.

I **have just spoken** to him.
They've **just left**.

3 Choose the correct words.

- 1 Look! I've **found** / **found** a four-leaf clover!
- 2 It's **been** / **was** Jo's birthday last week!
- 3 Dan's cat **had** / **has had** four black kittens last night.
- 4 Oh no! Somebody **broke** / **'s broken** the mirror!
- 5 Jo **gave** / **'s given** me this charm yesterday.

4 Complete the postcard with the past simple or present perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

Dear Beth,

We (1) ... (be) in Ireland since Saturday and we're having a great time! Yesterday morning we (2) ... (go) to Blamey Castle and I (3) ... (kiss) the Blamey Stone! In the afternoon we (4) ... (have) a picnic in the countryside. The weather isn't good - it (5) ... (rain) four times since we (6) ... (arrive).

Love Katie

PS I (7) ... (see) a rainbow yesterday, but I (8) ... (not catch) a leprechaun yet!



CLIL Grammar in context: History

5 Complete the essay with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

The history of superstitions

How long (1) ... people ... (have) superstitions? Probably since the world (2) ... (begin)! For thousands of years, people (3) ... (look) for ways to explain why certain things happen.



The evil eye

The superstition of the evil eye (4) ... (exist) in Greece since ancient times. The ancient Greeks (5) ... (believe) that some people could have a bad effect on others just by looking at them. Since then, Greek people (6) ... (wear) special bracelets with a blue 'eye' on them to protect them from evil.

Cats

For centuries, people (7) ... (think) that cats have magical powers. For this reason, the ancient Egyptians (8) ... (keep) cats in their homes and (9) ... (not allow) anyone to treat them badly.

The number 13

Why (10) ... this number ... (become) an unlucky number? Some people say it is because there (11) ... (be) 13 people at Christ's last meal. Friday the 13th (12) ... (not always be) an unlucky date. People only (13) ... (start) being superstitious about it in the 20th century, but no one really knows why.

6 3.16 Listen and check your answers.

CLIL TASK

Go online. Find out about three superstitions in two different countries.