

Present Perfect for Life Experiences vs. Simple Past for Details

Reading Text: My Life Experiences

Hi! My name is Maria, and I am 28 years old. I love traveling, trying new things, and meeting new people. I **have had** a very exciting life so far!

First, I **have traveled** to three different countries: France, Japan, and Peru. I **visited** Japan two years ago with my best friend. We **stayed** in Tokyo for two weeks and **ate** delicious sushi every single day. It was an amazing trip!

Second, I **have tried** many extreme sports. I **have jumped** out of an airplane! I **did** a skydiving jump in 2021 in Spain. At first, I **was** very scared, but then I **loved** the feeling of flying.

Finally, I **have learned** to play two musical instruments: the guitar and the piano. I **bought** my first acoustic guitar when I **was** 15 years old, and I **took** lessons for six months.

I **have done** many interesting things, but I still want to learn more, travel more, and experience new adventures!



Grammar Explanation: Present Perfect vs. Simple Past

1. Present Perfect (have / has + past participle)

Use the **Present Perfect** to talk about **life experiences** when the exact time is not important or not mentioned.

- **Structure:** Subject + have / has + past participle
- **Example:** I **have traveled** to Japan. (*Focus: Experience in my life*)
- **Example:** She **has tried** skydiving. (*Focus: Experience in her life*)

2. Simple Past (Regular -ed or Irregular forms)

Use the **Simple Past** to give **specific details** (when, where, who with, or what happened).

- **Structure:** Subject + verb (past form)
- **Time words:** yesterday, last year, in 2021, two days ago, when I was 15
- **Example:** I **visited** Japan **two years ago**. (*Specific time*)
- **Example:** I **bought** a guitar **when I was 15**. (*Specific moment in the past*)

Exercise 1: Select the correct option in bold to complete each sentence.

1. I (**have visited** / visited) Italy three times in my life.
2. She (**has bought** / bought) a new car last week.
3. They (**have eaten** / ate) Mexican food yesterday evening.
4. We (**have lived** / lived) in London since 2020.
5. He (**has broken** / broke) his leg when he was a child.

Exercise 2: Fill in the blanks using the Present Perfect or Simple Past of the verb in brackets.

1. I _____ (never / try) sushi before.
2. Last summer, we _____ (go) to the beach every weekend.
3. Maria _____ (learn) how to drive two years ago.
4. They _____ (see) that movie three times already.
5. John _____ (lose) his keys yesterday morning.

Exercise 3: Match the general experience question on the left with its detailed past answer on the right.

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| 1. Have you ever flown in a helicopter? | A. Yes, I took lessons when I was at university. |
| 2. Have you ever learned a second language? | B. Yes, I did it last summer in New York. |
| 3. Have you ever won a competition? | C. Yes, I studied Spanish for three years in high school. |
| 4. Have you ever played an instrument? | D. Yes, I won a running race in 2019. |

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. I have seen a dolphin two days ago.
2. She has visited Paris in 2018.
3. They didn't finished their homework yesterday.
4. Have you ever went to Spain?
5. We lived in this house since five years.