Present Perfect is used:

- **for complete past actions connected to the present with a stated or unstated time reference.**
  *She **has gone** to Madrid.* (unstated time; we don't know when she went – she's still there)
  *Jim **has typed** five letters this morning.* (stated time; it's still morning – action connected to the present)
  *I've **spoken** to Prince Charles.* (He's still alive – action connected to the present)

  *He **has lived** in Spain for two years.* (He's in Spain now. – action connected to the present)

- **to announce news or give new information.**
  *The Prime Minister **has decided** to call a general election.*

Past Simple is used:

- **for complete past actions not connected to the present with a stated or implied time reference.**
  *She **went** to Madrid **last year**.* (When? Last year. The time is stated.)
  *Jim **typed** five letters yesterday morning.* (When? Yesterday morning.)
  *She once **spoke** to James Dean.* (action not connected to the present – James Dean is dead.)
  *She **lived** in France for three years.* (She doesn't live in France now. – action not connected to the present)

- **to give additional details of a news story.**
  *He **announced** the decision to Parliament this morning.*

Fill in with the *present perfect* or the *past simple*.

1 A: .....Did you see..... **(you/see)** the Jackie Chan film on TV last night?
B: No. But I ..... **(already/see)** all of his films on DVD this year.

2 A: I ..... **(already/go)** to the cinema three times this month. What about you?
B: Not once! But last month, I ..... **(go)** five times.

3 A: ..... **(you/ever read)** *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde?
B: Yes. We ..... **(read)** it in school last year.

4 A: George and I ..... **(have)** dinner at that new Vietnamese restaurant in town last night.
B: Really? I ..... **(never/try)** Vietnamese food before. What's it like?
A: Delicious. In fact, we ..... **(already/make)** a reservation to eat there again next week.

Fill in with the *past simple* or the *past perfect*.



The biggest event in Tom's life 1) ...happened... **(happen)** by chance. He 2) ..... **(be)** 22 years old and he 3) ..... **(just/graduate)** from university. He was looking for a job. He 4) ..... **(want)** to be a journalist but he 5) ..... **(know)** he 6) ..... **(not/have)** enough experience. You see, as a student, he 7) ..... **(spend)** most of his time in the university theatre. He 8) ..... **(apply)** to many newspapers but he 9) ..... **(not/receive)** any replies. Then one day, the phone 10) ..... **(ring)**. It was a woman who 11) ..... **(offer)** him a job as an actor. She 12) ..... **(see)** him in a play at the university and 13) ..... **(enjoy)** the performance. He 14) ..... **(take)** the job and ever since then he's been a very successful actor. Last night he 15) ..... **(discover)** he 16) ..... **(win)** an award for his performance in the play.

LIVEWORKSHEETS