

Present Perfect and Past Simple

1 Read and compare the use of the Past Simple and the Present Perfect in these sentences.

I lived in Paris for two years, from 2007–2009. (The action is finished.)

I've lived in London since 2009. (I still do. The action is not finished.)

I've been to Scotland. (This is an experience in my life.)

I went with my husband two years ago. (At a definite past time.)

'Have you ever flown in a helicopter?' 'Yes, I have.'

'Where did you fly?' 'I flew over New York.'

'Oh dear, I've broken my glasses.'

'What happened?'

'I dropped them.'

2 These are common time expressions used with the Past Simple and the Present Perfect.

Past Simple	Present Perfect
last week	since Monday
yesterday	ever
the day before yesterday	never
in 1999	just
on July 21st	already
three months ago	yet
for two weeks (but now ended)	for two weeks (and continues)

Practice

Present Perfect or Past Simple?

1 6.7 Listen and complete some other lines from the interview with Frieda.

- 1 I Do you go back to Germany much?
F No, I don't. I _____ back a few times to visit relatives, but I _____ there again.
- 2 I What _____ you _____ at university?
F I _____ Ancient History at Cambridge.
- 3 I _____ you ever _____ any other jobs, apart from being an archaeologist?
F Yes, I _____. I _____ all sorts of jobs - I even _____ as a waitress when I was at university.
- 4 I What's the most dangerous situation you _____ in?
F Well, I _____ a very difficult time in Egypt during the revolution in 2011. I _____ two weeks inside my friend's house - it was too dangerous to go out!

Put in the verbs in the correct form, Present Perfect or Past Simple.

1. We _____ to the restaurant last night. (go)
2. I _____ there for ages. (not / be)
3. Hector _____ his last summer holiday in the country. (spend)
4. James _____ all the rules by heart. (learn)
5. Charlotte _____ yet. (not / arrive)
6. I _____ a lot of money last month. (earn)
7. The kids _____ their grandparents last Sunday. (visit)
____ you _____ the birds in the garden yesterday? (feed)
9. I _____ at home last weekend. (not / stay)
10. You _____ me about it already. (tell)
11. I _____ over 7 books this month. (read)