

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

We use the **present perfect**:

- for recent actions or states, or for actions which happened at an unstated time in the past.



I **have bought** a new bicycle.
(When did he buy it? We don't know.)
unstated time

- for actions or states which began in the past and continue up to the present.



I **have been** a teacher for two years.
(He is still a teacher.)

Time expressions used with the present perfect:

just, ever, never, already, yet, always, how long, so far, for, since, recently, etc.

We use the **past simple**:

- for actions or states which finished at a stated time in the past.



I **bought** this bicycle five years ago.
(When did he buy it? Five years ago.)
stated time

- for actions or states which finished in the past.



I **was** a student fourteen years ago.
(He isn't a student now. He is a teacher.)

Time expressions used with the past simple:

yesterday, last night / week / month / year, ago, then, when, in 2004, etc.

8 Circle the correct item.

- I haven't tidied my room **just** / **yet**.
- We went to the cinema **already** / **yesterday**.
- Helen has **already** / **yet** had her breakfast.
- The children have **never** / **ever** been to Italy.
- I didn't play football **yet** / **last weekend**.
- I sent you an email two days **already** / **ago**
but you haven't replied.
- Billy took a test **already** / **three days ago**.
- Tonia has sent twenty invitations **yesterday** / **so far**.
- She hasn't watched any new films **yesterday** / **recently**.
- Has Ben gone to school **then** / **yet**?

9 Fill in the gaps with yet, ago, ever, last night, for or since.

- My father went to Spain two days ... **ago** ...
- He has known her 2001.
- She hasn't finished her work
- Have you seen an elephant?
- We went to bed at 10 o'clock
- He has lived in Madrid ten years.

10 Choose the correct item.

- 1 I a new dress yesterday.
A buy **B bought**
C have bought
- 2 She anything since 9 o'clock this morning.
A hasn't eaten B ate
C didn't eat
- 3 He to school last week. He was ill.
A hasn't gone B went
C didn't go
- 4 I such a delicious cake.
A have never eaten B have ever eaten
C never ate
- 5 you me last night?
A Have, called B Do, call
C Did, call
- 6 She married in 2008.
A has got B got
C have got
- 7 Jane painting.
A always like B always has liked
C has always liked
- 8 I TV last night.
A didn't watch B haven't watched
C hasn't watched
- 9 They their homework yet.
A have finished B haven't finished
C finished
- 10 Last year, the Smiths to Australia.
A have gone B went
C have never gone

11 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect.

- 1 Kevin .. *has lost*... (lose) his keys. He *left*..... (leave) them on the bus yesterday.
- 2 I (not/play) tennis since I was at school but I (be) very good at it back then.
- 3 Mr and Mrs Little (visit) Egypt. They (go) there on holiday in 2007.
- 4 A: you (choose) a dress for the party yet?
B: Yes, I (buy) one yesterday.
- 5 A: you (see) any new films lately?
B: Yes, I (watch) the new James Bond film last week.
- 6 I think our teacher (forget) about the test! He (not/say) anything about it in the last lesson!
- 7 Sarah (break) her leg. She (fall) off a horse last week.
- 8 A: (you/sell) your house yet?
B: Yes, some people (see) it last month and (buy) it.
- 9 I (finish) decorating my room. I (paint) it last week and I (put up) the new curtains last night.
- 10 They (lose) their cat. It (run) away last week.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *past simple*.

- a) Ann: 1) *Did you go* (you/go) on holiday last year?
 Costas: Yes, I 2) (go) to Spain. 3) (you/ever/be) there?
 Ann: Yes, I 4) (go) there two years ago.
- b) Maria: I 5) (sell) my old radio.
 Helen: Really? When 6) (you/sell) it?
 Maria: I 7) (sell) it yesterday.
- c) Ian: I 8) (go) to the new sports centre yesterday.
 Josh: Really? I 9) (not/be) there yet. What's it like?
 Ian: It's fantastic! I 10) (never/see) anything like it before.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the *past simple* or the *present perfect*.



- I 1) *'ve been* (be) a ski instructor for many years now. I
 2) (take up) the sport when I 3) (be)
 at school. I still remember the first time I 4) (try) to
 ski. I 5) (slip) on the ice and 6)
 (break) my ankle. Thankfully, I 7) (not/have) a
 serious accident since then. Last year, I 8) (try)
 ice-skating for the very first time. I 9) (slip) on the
 ice rink a couple of times since then but I 10)
 (not/break) anything. Two years ago, I 11) (take)
 snowboarding lessons. I 12) (not/like) it because I
 13) (find) it a little dangerous. I 14)
 (not/play) ice-hockey yet. There's a game tomorrow. I can't wait to go!



Brain Gym

In 5 minutes, write 3 things you have already done today and 3 things you did yesterday.

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