Grammar Practice

Present Perfect Simple VS Past Simple

Read the theory and solve.

Ever, Never.

20a Circle the correct answer.

0 We (spoke) / *'ve spoken* to them yesterday.

1 Katie *had* / *'s had* several jobs abroad and now she *went* / *'s gone* to Turkey to work for a large multinational.

2 There *were* / *have been* several major earthquakes in Japan recently. In fact, there *was* / *has been* a serious one about a week ago.

3 I'm afraid he isn't here. He *left* / *'s left* an hour ago.

4 *Did you see* / *Have you seen* any good films recently?

5 I *visited* / *'ve visited* their offices a few days ago but not their factory.

6 They *never ate* / *'ve never eaten* such spicy food before but they're enjoying it!

7 I *tried* / *'ve tried* to contact her several times but the last time I *talked* / *'ve talked* to her, she *put* / *'s put* the phone down on me.

8 That's the silliest article I *ever read* / *'ve ever read*!

9 A: *Did you ever work* / *Have you ever worked* in an office?
B: Yes, I *worked* / *'ve worked* in one last year but I *didn't like* / *haven't liked* it.

10 They say it's the first time he *ever lost* / *'s ever lost* a game.

11 I *always dreamed* / *'ve always dreamed* of becoming a doctor and I hope to study medicine.

12 She *only went* / *'s only been* to Manchester once before and she doesn't remember it well.

20b Complete the e-mail. Use the present perfect or past simple of the verbs in the box.

always / want	encourage	ever / have	find
happen	have	invite	meet (x2)	see	start (x2)

New Message

Dear Anna,

It seems like ages ago since I last (0) ..*saw*.. you! So much (1) ..... recently that I don't know where to begin. First of all, I (2) ..... someone special. His name is Steve and we're planning to get married. We (3) ..... a little over a year ago at Gill's wedding.

Secondly, I (4) ..... a new job as an editorial assistant for a local newspaper. I wasn't going to apply but Steve (5) ..... me and much to my surprise, they (6) ..... me for an interview! I (7) ..... working there six months ago.

What else? We're busy planning the wedding but we still (8) ..... time to take a holiday in Turkey last month. I (9) ..... to go there and we (10) ..... a great time.

Anyway, you'll be hearing from me again soon. I hope you're well – I really think this is the best year I (11) ..... !

Love, Suzanne

20c Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word in bold. Use between two and five words.

0 This is the saddest film I have ever seen. **never**
I ..*have never seen*.. such a sad film.

1 She has never done anything like that before. **ever**
It's the first time she ..... anything like that.

2 This is Sean's first time in a helicopter. **flown**
Sean ..... in a helicopter before.

3 Andy and Rachel are still on holiday in Italy. **gone**
Andy and Rachel ..... to Italy on holiday.

4 I have been to Russia once before. **second**
This ..... I have been to Russia.

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5 We still remember the times we spent together. **forgotten**
We ..... the times we spent together.

6 I went to the exhibition at the National Gallery last week. **been**
I ..... the exhibition at the National Gallery.

7 You have never told anyone the story before, have you? **ever**
Is this the first time ..... anyone the story?

Just, Already, Yet, etc.

21a Complete the sentences. Use the present perfect or past simple of the verbs in brackets.

0 A: *Have you spoken* ..... to Jim recently?
B: I ..... *spoke* ..... to him last week. (you / speak, speak)

1 I ..... Claire. We ..... at the end of term party. (already / meet, meet)

2 Harriet ..... me anything yet but her sister ..... me yesterday that Harriet's expecting a baby. (not tell, tell)

3 Look! I ..... all my exams! I'm so relieved because I ..... them all last year. (pass, not pass)

4 My parents ..... . They ..... in a taxi about five minutes ago. (just / arrive, arrive)

5 A: ..... your wallet yet?
B: Yes, I ..... it under the sofa this morning. (you / find, find)

6 Someone ..... the window – there's glass everywhere. They ..... it last night. (break, break)

7 Nathan ..... his hand so he can't write. He ..... it last week playing tennis. (hurt, hurt)

8 If you're looking for Carol, I ..... her. I ..... her a few minutes ago in the canteen. (just / see, see)

21b Complete the conversations. Use the words in brackets and *just, already, yet* or *recently*.

0 A: Would you like something to eat?
B: No, thanks. ..... *I've just had lunch.* ..... (I / have / lunch)

1 A: Is Tony here?
B: I'm sorry. ..... (you / miss / him)

2 A: ..... (you / taste / the chocolates?)
B: Yes, and they're delicious.

3 A: Why are we hurrying?
B: We're late. ..... (the film / start)

4 A: Why is all this laundry still here?
B: ..... (they / not repair / the washing machine)

5 A: ..... (you / finish / your homework?)
B: No, but it won't take me much longer!

6 A: Congratulations! ..... (I / hear / the news)
B: Thanks. We're delighted.

7 A: Would you like a coffee?
B: No, thanks. ..... (I / have / three cups)

8 A: I hear Gemma isn't well. ..... (you / see / her?)
B: No, not for a few days. Perhaps we should drop by.

21c Complete the e-mail. Use the present perfect or past simple of the verbs in brackets.

New Message

Dear Javier,

I'm sorry I (0) ..... *haven't been* ..... (not be) in touch recently but I (1) ..... (be) really busy. I (2) ..... (go) to my third job interview this morning but unfortunately, no one (3) ..... (offer) me a job yet. I (4) ..... (look) everywhere and I (5) ..... (fill in) dozens of application forms. Still, I'm not discouraged. Some things take time.

In fact, I'm really enjoying myself here. I (6) ..... (already / see) *Cats* and I (7) ..... (just / buy) tickets for the next Madonna concert – I (8) ..... (stand) in line for an hour this afternoon but it was worth it. Also, I like the family I'm staying with – they (9) ..... (give) me lots of advice about finding work and last night they even (10) ..... (take) me out for a meal. We talk all the time and as a result, my English (11) ..... (already / improve) a lot. Anyway, someone (12) ..... (just / come) to the door. I hope it's the pizza I (13) ..... (order) an hour ago. I'll write more often in future – I promise.

Farida

LIVEWORKSHEETS

22a Re-write the sentences. Use the words in brackets.

0 It's weeks since we last saw one another. (seen)
We *haven't seen one another for weeks* .

1 When did you get married? (been)
How long ..... ?

2 They haven't seen their parents for two weeks. (since)
It's two weeks ..... .

3 I'm tired because the last time I slept was two days ago. (for)
I'm tired because I ..... .

4 When Owen left his job, he began to feel more relaxed. (felt)
Since Owen left his job, ...

5 Vanessa hasn't been to the cinema for months. (since)
It's months ..... .

6 I started working as a waiter and quit a month later. (for)
I ..... .

7 It's many years since they visited their grandparents. (for)
They ..... .

8 How long have Belinda and Roderick been married? (get)
When ..... .

9 She met them when she was a child. (known)
She ..... .

10 They're angry because the last time they got paid was two months ago. (been)
They're angry because they ..... .

22b Complete the conversations. Use the present perfect or past simple of the verbs in brackets. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

0 A: *Have you had* ..... (you / have) a busy day today?
B: Not really. I *finished* ..... (finish) writing my essay this morning and then I *went* ..... (go) windsurfing.



1 A: ..... (you / talk) to Hunter today?
B: No. He ..... (not come) in to work this morning. He ..... (be) ill since Tuesday.

2 A: Sales ..... (increase) in the first three months of this year and the prediction is that they will continue to rise.
B: Excellent news!

3 A: Where ..... (you / be) last night? I ..... (wait) for hours.
B: Sorry, I should have rung. I ..... (be) at work.

4 A: ..... (the package / arrive) yesterday?
B: No, and it ..... (not arrive) this morning either. Perhaps it'll come later this afternoon.

5 A: I ..... (not see) Catherine today. What about you?
B: I'm seeing her tomorrow.

22c Complete the texts. Use the present perfect or past simple of the verbs in the box.

be	catch (x2)	collect	drop	introduce	keep
	not see	phone	~~study~~	suggest	

Carrie and I (0) *studied* ..... together at university for three years. We (1) ..... in touch but I (2) ..... her for ages. To my surprise, she (3) ..... me last week and (4) ..... we meet for lunch today. I (5) ..... the bus to town this morning but although I (6) ..... here for over an hour, there's no sign of her. I hope she's all right.

We're here this morning in Marylebone Road in London, where traffic police (7) ..... these cameras a year ago to catch drivers who break the law. Since then, the police (8) ..... thousands of motorists on camera and (9) ..... many thousands of pounds in fines. Officials claim that traffic congestion (10) ..... by almost 20% since the cameras were installed.

LIVEWORKSHEETS