

Cambridge Grammar

Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple & Continuous

Read the theory and solve.

1 Match the beginnings and endings of these sentences.

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|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1 He's talked to her on the phone | A for years. |
| 2 This summer the pool was only open | B on my way home from school yesterday. |
| 3 The whole team felt exhausted | C since nine o'clock this morning. |
| 4 The rent of my flat has gone up | D when the match finished. |
| 5 She's had nothing to eat | E ever since she was very young. |
| 6 I got very wet | F by 20 per cent this year. |
| 7 I spent a month in Brazil | G a few minutes ago. |
| 8 She's always enjoyed painting | H from April till September. |
| 9 I haven't had such a good time | I in 2002. |
| 10 This text arrived | J every night this week. |

2 Fill in the gaps with the present perfect or past simple form of the verbs.

- 1 This is only the second time I 've ever flown (ever fly) in an aeroplane.
- 2 The child _____ (sleep) from seven till seven without waking once.
- 3 Gabriella _____ (grow) five centimetres since last month.
- 4 I _____ (send) Ed three emails last week but he _____ (not reply) to any of them yet.
- 5 _____ (you / learn) to play chess when you were a child?
- 6 I _____ (buy) this bicycle five years ago and I _____ (use) it every day since then.
- 7 How long _____ (you / have) that bad cough?
- 8 The train _____ (just arrive), so hurry and you might catch it.
- 9 I _____ (never see) such a beautiful rainbow before.
- 10 I _____ (dream) about a beautiful desert island last night.
- 11 On Sunday we _____ (meet) outside the cinema as usual.
- 12 When _____ (you / get) that jacket? I _____ (not notice) it before.

3  Choose the correct verb forms in these sentences by Cambridge First candidates.

- 1 I think that my friend Andrew *has worked* / *has been working* too hard recently and needs a rest.
- 2 I *have been working* / *worked* with children when I was at university.
- 3 How many times *have you eaten* / *have you been eating* Japanese food?
- 4 Since I left school in the summer I *have been doing* / *have done* a holiday job.
- 5 Two years ago I *did* / *have done* a course in coaching basketball.
- 6 I am so happy to receive your invitation. I *have waited* / *have been waiting* for it for ages!

4 Fill in the gaps with suitable verbs in the present perfect or the past simple.

Hi from Richard in Spain

I (1) 've been here in Spain for two weeks now and I'm having a great time.

When I (2) _____ at the airport

I (3) _____ very lonely. But I

(4) _____ (*already*) some friends and I'm staying with a very nice family.

They (5) _____ me to the seaside last weekend and we (6) _____ in the sea.

I really (7) _____ it. I (8) _____ some Spanish but I (9) _____ (*not*) to any language classes yet – they start next week.

It's now midnight and I need to go to bed as I (10) _____ a very busy day.

I (11) _____ shopping this morning and I (12) _____ football this afternoon.

See you in a month!



5 Read this conversation between two people in a sports club. Choose the correct verb forms.

Anna: Excuse me. (1) *We've waited* / *We've been waiting* to play tennis since 10.30. It must be our turn now.

Tim: I don't think so.

Anna: (2) *We've stood* / *We've been standing* here patiently watching you and it's time for you to stop. How long (3) *have you played* / *have you been playing*?

Tim: Since about 9.30. (4) *We've played* / *We've been playing* two matches so far this morning and (5) *we haven't finished* / *we haven't been finishing* the third yet. You'll have to wait or do something else.

Anna: But (6) *you've played* / *you've been playing* for more than two hours and it's our turn now.

Tim: I said you'll have to wait.

Anna: We're tired of waiting and we haven't got anything to do. (7) *We've read* / *We've been reading* the magazines we brought with us.

Tim: Why don't you do something else? (8) *Have you tried* / *Have you been trying* the swimming pool?

Anna: We don't want to swim, we want to play tennis.

Tim: Well, I always play on a Saturday morning. Anyway, (9) *we've already started* / *we've already been starting* the third match.

Anna: Oh well, it looks like we've got no choice, but (10) *we've booked* / *we've been booking* for next Saturday so you'll be unlucky then.