

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)

This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.

Has he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.

Did he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.

He **lost** his key (*past simple*)

but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The *present perfect* (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The *past simple* (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', we don't know whether he has the key now or not. We know only that he lost it at some time in the past.

Compare *present perfect* and *past simple*:

- They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
- They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone away)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
- It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.
- 'Hannah **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. (*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

Somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine.

Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)



Exercises

13.1 Complete the sentences. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p> 
<p>3</p> 	<p>4</p> 
<p>5</p> 	<p>6</p> 

13.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Did you hear about Sophie? She's given up her job. OK
- My mother has grown up in Italy. My mother grew up
- How many plays has William Shakespeare written?
- I've forgotten his name. Is it Joe or Jack?
- Who has invented paper?
- Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- We've washed the car, but now it's dirty again.
- Where have you been born?
- Ellie has gone shopping. She'll be back in about an hour.
- Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- I studied German at school, but most of it now. (I / forget)
- The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- What do you think of my English? Do you think? (it / improve)
- Are you ready to go? your coffee? (you / finish)
- for a job as a tour guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- Where's my bike? outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- Quick! We need to call an ambulance. an accident. (there / be)
- A: I've found my phone.
B: Oh, good. Where it? (you / find)
A: at the bottom of my bag. (It / be)
- A: Ben won't be able to play tennis for a while. his arm. (He / break)
B: Oh. How? (that / happen)
A: off a ladder. (He / fall)

Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

A

We do not use the present perfect (**I have done**) when we talk about a *finished* time (for example, **yesterday / last year / ten minutes ago** etc.). We use a past tense:

- It **was** very cold **yesterday**. (*not* has been)
- Paul and Lucy **arrived ten minutes ago**. (*not* have arrived)
- Did** you **eat** a lot of sweets **when you were a child**? (*not* have you eaten)
- I **got** home late **last night**. I **was** very tired and **went** straight to bed.

Use the past to ask **When ... ?** or **What time ... ?**:

- When did** your friends **arrive**? (*not* have ... arrived)
- What time did** you **finish** work?

Compare:

Present perfect

- Tom **has lost** his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or **has** she **left**?

Past simple

- Tom **lost** his key **yesterday**. He couldn't get into the house.
- When did** Carla **leave**?

B

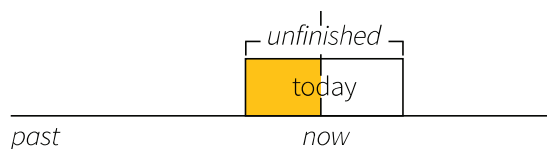
Compare:

Present perfect (have done)

- I've **done** a lot of work **today**.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *until now*. For example:

today / this week / since 2010.



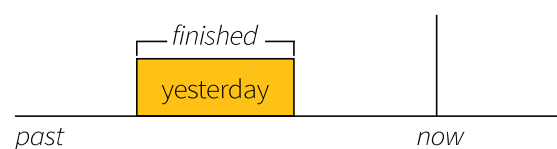
- It **hasn't** rained **this week**.
- Have** you **seen** Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning now)
- Have** you **seen** Ben **recently**? (in the last few days or weeks)
- I've **been working** here **since 2010**. (I still work here now)
- I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't** **seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've **been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives in Los Angeles. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- I've **never ridden** a horse. (in my life)
- It's the last day of your holiday. You say: It's **been** a really good holiday. I've really **enjoyed** it.

Past simple (did)

- I **did** a lot of work **yesterday**.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example:

yesterday / last week / from 2010 to 2014.



- It **didn't** rain **last week**.
- Did** you **see** Anna **this morning**? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- Did** you **see** Ben **on Sunday**?
- I **worked** here **from 2010 to 2014**. (I don't work here now)
- A: **Was** Lisa at the party **on Sunday**?
B: I don't think so. I **didn't** **see** her.
- We **waited** (*or were waiting*) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Jack **lived** in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles.
- I **never rode** a bike **when I was a child**.
- After you come back from holiday you say: It **was** a really good holiday. I really **enjoyed** it.

Exercises

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere. OK
- 2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child? Did you eat
- 3 I've bought a new car. You must come and see it.
- 4 I've bought a new car last week.
- 5 Where have you been yesterday evening?
- 6 Maria has left school in 1999.
- 7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him?
- 8 'Have you been to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.'
- 9 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten much today.
- 10 When has this bridge been built?

14.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

- 1 (it / not / rain / this week) *It hasn't rained this week.*
- 2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather
- 3 (it / cold / last week) It
- 4 (I / not / eat / any fruit yesterday) I
- 5 (I / not / eat / any fruit today)
- 6 (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year)
- 7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year)
- 8 (you / have / a holiday recently?)

14.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 *I haven't been* (I / not / be) to Canada, but I'd like to go there.
- 2 Paul and Lucy *arrived* (arrive) about ten minutes ago.
- 3 I'm tired. (I / not / sleep) well last night.
- 4 (There / be) a bus drivers' strike last week, so
..... (there / be) no buses.
- 5 Edward (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then
(he / give) it up. Now he works as a gardener.
- 6 Mary lives in Dublin. (She / live) there all her life.
- 7 My grandfather (die) before I was born.
(I / never / meet) him.
- 8 I don't know Karen's husband. (I / never / meet) him.
- 9 It's nearly lunchtime, and (I / not / see) Martin all morning. I wonder
where he is.
- 10 A: (you / go) to the cinema last night?
B: Yes, but the movie (be) awful.
- 11 A: (It / be) very warm here since we arrived.
B: Yes, (it / be) 35 degrees yesterday.
- 12 A: Where do you live? B: In Boston.
A: How long (you / live) there? B: Five years.
A: Where (you / live) before that? B: In Chicago.
A: And how long (you / live) in Chicago? B: Two years.

14.4 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- 1 (something you haven't done today) *I haven't eaten any fruit today.*
- 2 (something you haven't done today)
- 3 (something you didn't do yesterday)
- 4 (something you did yesterday evening)
- 5 (something you haven't done recently)
- 6 (something you've done a lot recently)