

PAST SIMPLE TENSE

TO BE

VERBS



S + Was/were
They were friends.

S + V-ed
She worked yesterday.



S + was not/were not + ...
They weren't friends.

S + did not + verb (base form)
She didn't work yesterday.



Was/Were + S + ...?
They weren't friends.

Did + S + verb (in base form)?
Did she work yesterday?

Usage

Example

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE



S + have/has + past participle

I have tried sushi.



S + have not (haven't)/has not (hasn't) + past participle

I have not tried sushi.



Have/Has + subject + past participle?

Have you tried sushi?

Usage

Example

14 Present Perfect or Past Simple? (1)

1 I have done or I did?



The Present Perfect tells us about the past and the present. United **have won** the Cup, so it's theirs now.

The Past Simple tells us about the past, a time which is finished. Last year is in the past.

We use the Past Simple (not the Present Perfect) to talk about times in the past such as yesterday, last week, in 1994, a hundred years ago.

We **watched** United **last week**. NOT ~~We have watched United last week.~~

Long ago dinosaurs **lived** here. NOT ~~Long ago dinosaurs have lived here.~~

Here are some more examples.

PRESENT PERFECT

Emma **has packed** her case.

(So her things are in the case now.)

Mike **has repaired** the chair.

(So it's all right now.)

The plane **has just landed**.

I **ve turned** the heating on. (It's on now.)

I **ve dropped** my calculator. (It's on the floor now.)

PAST SIMPLE

Emma **packed** her case **last night**.

(Her things may be unpacked now.)

Mike **repaired** the chair.

(It may be broken again now.)

The plane **landed ten minutes ago**.

I **turned** the heating on **earlier**, but it's off again now.

I **dropped** my calculator, but it seems to be OK.

2 I've done it. I did it yesterday.

Trevor: We've **bought** a new car.

Tom: Oh, have you? What sort?

Laura: An Adagio. We **bought** it last week.

We often give a piece of news in the Present Perfect, e.g. *We've bought a new car.* (The car is ours now.) We use the Past Simple, e.g. *We bought it last week,* to give details or to ask for details about things such as when and where it happened.

Here are some more examples.

I've **found** my wallet. ~ Oh, good. Where **did** you **find** it?

Your parcel **has arrived**. The postman **brought** it at eight o'clock.

They've **closed** the factory. ~ Really? When **did** they **do** that?

3 Structures with for, since and last

PRESENT PERFECT

We can say that something hasn't happened **for** a long time or **since** a specific time in the past.

We **haven't had** a party **for** ages.

We **haven't had** a party **since** Christmas.

PAST SIMPLE

We can say that it is a long time **since** something happened or when was **the last time** it happened.

It's ages **since** we **last had** a party.

Christmas was **the last time** we **had** a party.

Practice

A I have done or I did? (1)

Put in the correct verb form.

- ▶ I've done..... (I / do) all the housework. The flat is really clean now.
- ▶ A young couple bought..... (buy) the house next door. But they didn't live there long.
- 1 Our visitors (arrive). They're sitting in the garden.
- 2 There's still a problem with the television. Someone (repair) it, but then it broke down again.
- 3 (I / lose) my bank card. I can't find it anywhere.
- 4 The match (start). United are playing well.
- 5 My sister (run) away from home. But she came back two days later.
- 6 Daniel (earn) some money last week. But I'm afraid he's already spent it all.
- 7 (we / plant) an apple tree in the garden. Unfortunately it died.
- 8 Prices (go) up. Everything is more expensive this year.
- 9 Someone (turn) on the hi-fi. What's that song called?
- 10 (I / phone) the office at eleven to speak to the manager, but he isn't there today.
- 11 (I / make) a cake. Would you like a piece?
- 12 The runner Amos Temila (break) the world record for the 1500 metres in Frankfurt. Then two days later in Helsinki, Lee Williams ran it in an even faster time.

B I've done it. I did it yesterday. (2)

Things that have happened today are on the radio and TV news.

Give the news using the Present Perfect and Past Simple.

- ▶ the Prime Minister / visit Luton University / speak to students there / earlier today
The Prime Minister has visited Luton University. He spoke to students there earlier today.
- 1 the train drivers / go on strike / stop work / at twelve o'clock
.....
- 2 the Queen / arrive in Toronto / fly there / in an RAF aircraft
.....
- 3 two men / escape from Parkhurst Prison / get away / during the night
.....
- 4 the actor Howard Bates / die in a car accident / his car / crash into a wall
.....
- 5 Linda Jones / win the women's marathon / run it / in 2 hours 27 minutes
.....

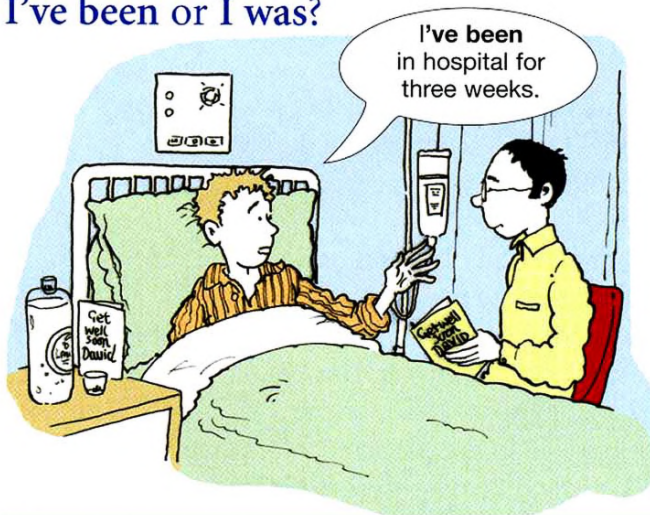
C Structures with for, since and last (3)

Complete the conversations.

- ▶ Mike: This car is filthy. I haven't been to the car wash for about a year.
Tom: What! You mean it's twelve months since you last went..... to the car wash?
- 1 Laura: I haven't used my camera recently. June was the last time I took a photo.
Trevor: Really? I'm surprised you June.
- 2 Rachel: I haven't seen Andrew for weeks.
Daniel: Nor me. It's him.
- 3 Tom: What about a game of cards? We haven't played since your birthday.
David: Really? You mean my birthday cards?
- 4 Emma: I feel terrible. It's three days since I ate anything.
Vicky: What did you say? You three days?

15 Present Perfect or Past Simple? (2)

1 I've been or I was?



PRESENT PERFECT

We use the Present Perfect for a state which has gone on up to the present. (David is still in hospital.)

*We've **lived here** for ten years.*
(And we still live here.)

PAST SIMPLE

We use the Past Simple for a state in the past, in a period which is finished. (David's stay in hospital is over.)

*We **lived there** for ten years.*
(We don't live there now.)

2 Have you (ever) ...? and Did you (ever) ...?

PRESENT PERFECT

We use the Present Perfect for actions in a period of time up to the present.

*This young director **has made** four films so far.*
*He **has made** films* means that it is possible he will make more films.

Here are some more examples.

***Have you ever been** to America? ~ Yes, twice.*
***I've played** table tennis before.*
***We've never had** any money.*

PAST SIMPLE

We use the Past Simple for actions in the past, a period which is finished.

*The director **made** many films in his long career.*
*He **made** films* means that his career in films is over. He won't make any more.

***Did Churchill ever go** to America? ~ Yes, I think so.*
***I played** table tennis at college.*
***We never had** any money in those days.*

3 Today, this week, etc.

PRESENT PERFECT

We use **today** and phrases with **this** for a period up to the present.

It hasn't rained today.
***Have you seen this** week's magazine?*

PAST SIMPLE

We use **yesterday** and phrases with **last** for a past period.

It rained yesterday.
***Did you see last** week's magazine?*

But sometimes **today** etc. can mean a past period. Compare:

I haven't seen Rachel today.
(It's still daytime.)
***Has the post come this** morning?*
(It's still morning.)

I didn't see Sarah at work today.
(The working day is over.)
***Did the post come this** morning?*
(It's later in the day.)

Practice

A I've been or I was? (1)

Complete this letter to a newspaper. Put in the Present Perfect or Past Simple.

A few days ago I (▶) learned..... (learn) that someone plans to knock down the White Horse Inn. This pub (▶) has been..... (be) the centre of village life for centuries. It (1) (stand) at our crossroads for 500 years. It (2) (be) famous in the old days, and Shakespeare once (3) (stay) there, they say. I (4) (live) in Brickfield all my life. The villagers (5) (know) about the plans for less than a week and already there's a 'Save Our Pub' campaign. Last week we (6) (be) happy, but this week we're angry. We will stop them, you'll see.

B Have you (ever) ...? and Did you (ever) ...? (2)

Look at each conversation and choose the best sentence, a) or b).

- ▶ Have you heard about the woman walking across the US? ~ Yes, she's reached the Rockies.
a) The walk is continuing. b) The walk has finished.
- 1 Have you ever played beach volleyball? ~ Yes, we played it on holiday.
a) The holiday is still going on. b) The holiday is over.
- 2 Did you know old Mr Green? ~ No, I never met him.
a) Mr Green is probably alive. b) Mr Green is probably dead.
- 3 Wayne Johnson is a great footballer. ~ Yes, he's scored 200 goals for United.
a) Wayne Johnson still plays for United. b) Wayne Johnson has left United.

C Today, this week, etc (3)

Put in *this, last, today* or *yesterday*.

- ▶ Last..... month prices went up, but this..... month they have fallen a little.
- 1 It's been dry so far week, but week was very wet.
- 2 I went shopping earlier and spent all the money I earned
- 3 We didn't have many visitors year. We've had a lot more year.
- 4 I don't feel so tired now. We got up quite late morning. I felt really tired when we got up so early.

D Present Perfect or Past Simple? (Units 14 and 15)

Put in the verbs.

- Tom: (▶) Have you heard..... (you / hear) the news about David?
Harriet: No. (1) (what / happen)?
Tom: (2) (he / have) an accident. He was walking down some steps. (3) (he / fall) and (4) (break) his leg.
Harriet: Oh, how awful! When (5) (it / happen)?
Tom: Yesterday afternoon. Melanie (6) (tell) me about it last night.
Harriet: Last night! (7) (you / know) about it last night, and (8) (you / not / tell) me!
Tom: Well, (9) (I / not / see) you last night. And (10) (I / not / see) you today, until now.
Harriet: I hope he's all right. (11) (he / have) lots of accidents, you know. (12) (he / do) the same thing about two years ago.

Test C: Present Perfect and Past Simple

A

Put in the past participles of the verbs in brackets.

- ▶ We've found..... (find) all the answers.
- 1 Have you (wash) the car?
- 2 You haven't (eat) very much.
- 3 They've (open) a new supermarket.
- 4 You've (write) it in pencil.
- 5 I've (make) the sandwiches.
- 6 We've (have) our lunch.
- 7 United have (score) a goal.
- 8 The balloon has (land) in a field.
- 9 Who's (break) this glass?
- 10 It's warm because the heating has (be) on.
- 11 Have you (sell) your flat yet?
- 12 I've (finish) that job at last.

B

Complete the second sentence so that it follows on from the first. Use the Present Perfect.

- ▶ My hair is tidy now. I've brushed..... my hair.
- 1 The door is open. Someone the door.
- 2 This is Oliver's drawing, look. Oliver a picture.
- 3 The calculator is broken. Someone the calculator.
- 4 United are the winners. United the game.
- 5 There's no more wine in the bottle. We all the wine.
- 6 The floor is clean now. I the floor.
- 7 I know my number now. I my number by heart.
- 8 The guests are here now. The guests
- 9 I'm still working on the computer. I with the computer yet.

C

Decide which word is correct.

- ▶ I'd like to borrow this book. Has Anna read it yet.... ?
a) done b) for c) just d) yet
- 1 Ben writes very quickly. He's finished his essay.
a) already b) been c) for d) yet
- 2 What are you going to do? ~ I don't know. I haven't decided
a) just b) long c) since d) yet
- 3 I've to London. I went there in June.
a) been b) gone c) just d) yet
- 4 Have you done any skiing?
a) ever b) for c) just d) long
- 5 My boyfriend hasn't rung week.
a) for b) last c) since d) this
- 6 I haven't seen that coat before. How have you had it?
a) already b) for c) long d) since
- 7 The girls have to the cinema. They won't be back until ten o'clock.
a) already b) been c) gone d) just

- 8 I haven't seen my parents last Christmas.
 a) already b) before c) for d) since
- 9 This is the first I've ever lived away from home.
 a) already b) since c) that d) time
- 10 This programme must be new. I've seen it before.
 a) ever b) never c) since d) yet

D

Some of these sentences are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. If the sentence is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is incorrect, cross the unnecessary *have* or *has* out of the sentence and write it in the space.

- ▶ Susan has lost her keys. She can't find them anywhere. ✓
- ▶ Christopher has hurt his hand, but it's OK now. has
- 1 The directors have arrived half an hour ago, but they didn't stay long.
- 2 It's raining, and Peter has left his umbrella behind, look.
- 3 It's a long time since your friends have last visited us.
- 4 None of you have called me for weeks. Aren't we friends any more?
- 5 We can play tennis now. The others have finished.
- 6 The company has bought some land, but then it sold it.
- 7 The computer isn't on now. Someone has turned it off.
- 8 Tessa has posted the parcel. It's on its way to you.
- 9 Several bombs have gone off in the city centre. It has happened an hour ago.
- 10 Simon has left. He and Oliver have left after lunch.

E

Put in the Present Perfect or Past Simple of the verbs in brackets.

- ▶ I've had (have) these shoes since my eighteenth birthday.
- ▶ I tidied (tidy) my desk, but now it's in a mess again.
- 1 The last time I (go) to Brighton was in August.
- 2 I'd like to meet a ghost, but I (never / see) one.
- 3 I've finished my homework. I (do) it before tea.
- 4 And the race is over! And Micky Simpson (win) in a record time!
- 5 I (work) for a computer company for a year. That was after college.
- 6 What time (you / get) to work this morning?
- 7 Martin (be) to Greece five times. He loves the place.
- 8 The President (come) out of the building and is going to make a speech.
- 9 You won't believe this, but I've got some tickets for the concert. ~ Oh, well done. How (you / get) them?
- 10 Of course I can ride a bike. But I (not / ride) one for years.
- 11 Marilyn Monroe (be) in about thirty films.
- 12 (you / ever / bake) your own bread? ~ No, but I might try it some time.
- 13 Janet (be) very ill three years ago.
- 14 Rupert has left a message for you. He (ring) last night.
- 15 (you / see) the news today? ~ No, not yet. I'll watch it at ten.
- 16 We moved here in 1993. We (be) here a long time now.