

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.

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Circle the correct item.

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

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.