

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 always 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', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do **not** use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- ☐ 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)
- ☐ 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 TV. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- ☐ Have you heard the news? Sally **has won** the lottery!

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 Scotland. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- ☐ Did you know that 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)

13.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1</p>  <p>I can't get in. I <u>ve lost</u> (lose) my key.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>MARY (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Are you OK?</p> <p>Yes, I (have) a headache, but I feel fine now.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p>

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

- It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (stop)
- The town is very different now. It has changed a lot. (change)
- I did German at school, but I most of it now. (forget)
- The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- What do you think of my English? Do you think it ? (improve)
- A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, I with it. You can have it. (finish)
- I for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (apply)
- Where's my bike? It outside the house, but it's not there now. (be)
- Look! There's an ambulance over there. There an accident. (be)
- A: Have you heard about Ben? He his arm. (break)
B: Really? How that ? (happen)
A: He off a ladder. (fall)

13.3 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- Do you know about Sue? She's given up her job. OK
- My mother has grown up in Scotland. grew
- How many plays has Shakespeare written?
- Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- The Chinese have invented paper.
- Where have you been born?
- Mary isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

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

A

Do not use the present perfect (*I have done*) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1999 / when I was a child). 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?

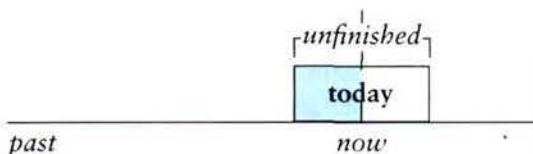
B

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 1985.

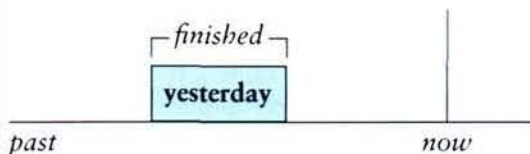


- ☐ It **hasn't** rained this week.
- ☐ Have you seen Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning)
- ☐ Have you seen Tim **recently**?
- ☐ I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't** seen her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- ☐ We've **been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- ☐ Ian lives in London. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- ☐ I **have never** played golf. (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 1995 to 2001.



- ☐ It **didn't** rain last week.
- ☐ Did you see Anna **this morning**? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- ☐ Did you see Tim **on Sunday**?
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ Ian **lived** in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London.
- ☐ I **didn't** play golf last summer.
- ☐ After you **come back** from holiday you say: It **was** a really good holiday. I really enjoyed it.

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? 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 Lucy 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 book been published? _____

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 / read / a newspaper yesterday) I _____
- 5 (I / not / read / a newspaper 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 don't know where Lisa is. Have you seen (you / see) her?
- 2 When I _____ (get) home last night, I _____ (be) very tired and I _____ (go) straight to bed.
- 3 A: _____ (you / finish) painting the bedroom?
B: Not yet. I'll finish it tomorrow.
- 4 George _____ (not / be) very well last week.
- 5 Mr Clark _____ (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then he gave it up.
- 6 Molly lives in Dublin. She _____ (live) there all her life.
- 7 A: _____ (you / go) to the cinema last night?
B: Yes, but it _____ (be) a mistake. The film _____ (be) awful.
- 8 My grandfather _____ (die) before I was born. I _____ (never / meet) him.
- 9 I don't know Carol's husband. I _____ (never / meet) him.
- 10 A: Is Martin here? B: No, he _____ (go) out.
A: When exactly _____ (he / go) out? B: About ten minutes ago.
- 11 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) _____

Answers

UNIT 13

13.1

- 2 has gone
- 3 forgot
- 4 went
- 5 had
- 6 has broken

13.2

- 3 've forgotten / have forgotten
- 4 arrested
- 5 's improved / has improved
- 6 've finished / have finished
- 7 applied
- 8 was
- 9 's been / has been
- 10 broke or 's broken / has broken ... did (that) happen ... fell

13.3

- 3 did Shakespeare write
- 4 OK
- 5 OK
- 6 The Chinese invented
- 7 were you born
- 8 OK
- 9 Albert Einstein was ... who developed

UNIT 14

14.1

- 3 OK
- 4 I bought
- 5 Where were you
- 6 Lucy left school
- 7 OK
- 8 OK
- 9 OK
- 10 When was this book published?

14.2

- 2 The weather has been cold recently.
- 3 It was cold last week.
- 4 I didn't read a newspaper yesterday.
- 5 I haven't read a newspaper today.
- 6 Emily has earned a lot of money this year.
- 7 She didn't earn so much last year.
- 8 Have you had a holiday recently?

14.3

- 2 got ... was ... went
- 3 Have you finished or Did you finish
- 4 wasn't / was not
- 5 worked
- 6 's lived / has lived
- 7 Did you go ... was ... was
- 8 died ... never met
- 9 've never met / have never met
- 10 's gone / has gone or went ... did he go
- 11 have you lived / have you been living ... did you live ... did you live

14.4

Example answers:

- 2 I haven't bought anything today.
- 3 I didn't watch TV yesterday.
- 4 I went out with some friends yesterday evening.
- 5 I haven't been to the cinema recently.
- 6 I've read a lot of books recently.