

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Studying Form - Presentation

Start by teaching statement forms, and work your way up from there. From statements to yes/no questions, there is only inversion of the subject and have/has. From yes/no questions to information questions, there is only the addition of a question word.

Present Perfect Statements

Subject	Have/Has	Past Participle
I / You / We / They	have	been, gone, heard, looked
He / She / It	has	seen, eaten, wanted, hit

Past Simple Statements

Subject	Regular Verb or...	Irregular Verb
I / You / We / They / He / She / It	learned, walked, hiccupped, cried, waited, bathed, etc.	see, be, go, do, fight, draw, drink, eat, fall, grow, etc.

Present Perfect Yes/No Questions

Have/Has	Subject	Past Participle
Have	I / you / we / they	been, gone, heard, looked
Has	he / she / it	seen, eaten, wanted, hit

Past Simple Yes/No Questions

Do / Be	Subject	Main Verb in Base Form
Did	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	learn, see, fall, eat, cry, wait, grow, etc.
Was	I / he / she / it	-----
Were	you / we / they	-----

Present Perfect Information (Wh-) Questions

Question Word	Have/Has	Subject	Past Participle
Who Where What When Why How	have	I / you / we / they	been, gone, heard, looked
	has	he / she / it	seen, eaten, wanted, hit

Past Simple Information (Wh-) Questions

Question Word	Do / Be	Subject	Main Verb in Base Form
Who Where What When Why How	did	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	learn, see, fall, eat, cry, wait, grow, etc.
	was	I / he / she / it	-----
	were	you / we / they	-----

Studying Form - Practice

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the **Present Perfect** form of the verb in parentheses.

- Sally _____ (win) four tennis championships this year.
- Phil _____ (drink) six cups of coffee today.
- Mallory _____ (have) three boyfriends already this month.
- How long _____ Howie _____ (live) in Chicago?
- Susan _____ (work) for two different community colleges.
- Will _____ (like) Beth for five years.
- Callie _____ (believe) in ghosts since she had a strange experience when she was 17.
- Our friends _____ (be) married for almost two years.
- _____ you ever _____ (eat) alligator?
- Why _____ they never _____ (leave) the United States?

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with the **Past Simple** form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Sally _____ (win) four tennis championships last year.
2. Phil _____ (drink) coffee all afternoon, so now it's 11:30 pm, and he can't sleep.
3. Mallory _____ (date) her last boyfriend for a week.
4. How long _____ Howie _____ (live) in Chicago before he moved to New York?
5. Susan _____ (work) for Trident Community College for seven months, and now she works for Wake Technical Community College.
6. Will _____ (write) love letters to Beth for one year, and then she agreed to go out with him.
7. Callie _____ (communicate) with ghosts for the last few years of her life.
8. Our friends _____ (fight) all the time. That's probably why they broke up.
9. _____ you _____ (eat) my pizza? I can't find it in the refrigerator.
10. Where _____ you _____ (go) every night last week?

Put the words in the following sentences in the correct order.

1. have / I / five / today. / eaten / doughnuts
2. the violin / Lauren / for several years. / played
3. every day this week? / Why / late / you / arrived / have
4. she / cry / Did / when you told her?
5. very hard / Alex / worked / last week.
6. Patricia / six / had / jobs / in her life. / has
7. eight emails / answered / I / since 9:00 this morning. / have
8. write emails / you / all morning? / Did (It is now afternoon.)
9. did / What / John / work on yesterday?
10. worked / on the car / John / yesterday.

Analyzing Verb Tenses

Look at each of the sentences in the Practice section. Answer the following questions:

- Which verb is used in a time that is completely finished and does not touch the present moment at all?
- Which verb is used in a time that includes the present moment?
- Which words/phrases indicate that the present moment is included?
- Which words/phrases indicate that a time is finished?
- In the sentence scramble exercise, what can you assume about Lauren in #2?

Answers:

- Past Simple
- Present Perfect
- Since, all day/week/month/year, today, this week/month/year
- Yesterday, last week/month/year, in (a year/month that is finished), this morning/afternoon/evening (if it is later than the time given), ago
- She no longer plays the violin.

Choosing Your Weapon - Controlled Practice

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with either the **Present Perfect** or **Past Simple** form of the verb in parentheses. When you're deciding which one to use, ask yourself:

- Is the time in which the action occurred completely finished? Or does the time include the present moment?

1. They _____ (wash) the car twice this month, but it's dirty again. They just _____ (wash) it yesterday, but then it _____ (rain), so the car _____ (get) muddy.
2. The twins _____ (play) nicely together all day yesterday.
3. What _____ you _____ (do) all last week? I _____ (call) you 15 times!
4. I'm sorry that I _____ (not/be) available last week. I was working on a difficult project, and I _____ (not/have) time to talk to anybody!
5. Zeke _____ (be) arrested several times, but he _____ never _____ (go) to prison.

Editing - Practice

Find and correct the mistakes in the following sentences. If a sentence is correct, write "correct."

1. Adam has watched two movies yesterday.
2. Corrie has saw several falling stars in her life.
3. Stella was listened to music last Tuesday evening.
4. Victor has run two marathons.
5. Hank and Patricia buyed their first house last month.
6. Christina and Max did paint the house last week.
7. Jasmine has wrote a book of poetry.
8. Jasmine has written a new poem a few days ago.
9. It have rained all day on Sunday.
10. Jeff and Felice loved each other for over 40 years, and they are still in love today.

Producing Language

Finish the following sentences:

1. I have always wanted to...
2. I have never...
3. I ... a lot when I was a child.
4. I haven't ... yet, but I want to.
5. I'm only _____ years old, and I have already...!
6. Recently, I have learned how to...
7. I spoke to ... on the phone last week.
8. Yesterday, I...
9. I have always...
10. I didn't ... yesterday, but I plan to do it today.

Write the questions that were asked before the answers given.

1. Q:
2. A: She read a book about dinosaurs.
3. Q:
4. A: They have eaten at twelve Mexican restaurants in town.
5. Q:
6. A: He has visited Rome at least five times.
7. Q:
8. A: We went there on vacation every year when I was a child.
9. Q:
10. A: I only beat my dad at basketball once.