

# Past Simple - Present Perfect

## Past Simple: verb + -ed

**Past Simple** is used:

- for actions which happened at a stated time in the past.



He **sold** his car two weeks ago. (When? Two weeks ago.)

- to express a past state or habit.



When he **was** young, he **lived** in a small house.

- for past actions which happened one after the other.



He **put on** his jacket, **took** his paper and **left** the house.

- for an action which happened in the past and cannot be repeated.



I once **spoke** to Princess Diana. (I won't see her again; she's dead.)



## Present Perfect: have + past participle

**Present Perfect** is used:

- for actions which happened at an unstated time in the past.



He **has sold** his car. (When? We don't know.)

- to express actions which have finished so recently that there's evidence in the present.



He **has just painted** the room. (The paint is wet.)

- to talk about experiences.



He **has tried** skydiving.

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present.



He **has lived** in this house for two years. (He still lives in this house.)

**BUT** He **lived** in Australia for one year. (He doesn't live in Australia now.)

- for an action which happened in the past and may be repeated.

I've **met** Leona Lewis.

(I may meet her again; she's still alive.)

### Time adverbs and expressions used with the past simple

yesterday, last week / month / year / Monday, etc., ago, how long ago, just now, then, when, in 2000, etc.

### Time adverbs and expressions used with the present perfect

just, ever, never, always, already, yet, for, since, so far, how long, lately, recently, today, this week / month / year, once, several times, etc.

- **Since** is used to express a starting point. I've known Ann **since** October.

- **For** is used to express a period of time. I've known Mary **for** two months.

- **Yet** is used in questions and negations. Have you met him **yet**? I haven't met him **yet**.

- **Already** is used in statements and questions. I've **already** posted the letters.

- **Just + present perfect** I've **just called** the doctor.

- **Just now + past simple** He **left just now**.

1. Add -(e)d to the verbs and put them in the correct column.

- cry • hate • fry • type • try
- beg • play • stay • taste
- dance • plan • pray • study
- stop • prefer • like • annoy
- phone • tip • travel • enjoy
- empty • tidy • destroy

-e → + -d

.....
.....
.....
.....

double consonant+ -ed

.....
.....
.....
.....

consonant + y → -ied

<i>cried,</i>
.....
.....
.....

vowel + -y → -ed

.....
.....
.....
.....

2. Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the **past simple** as in the example:

- 1 **A:** What <sup>1</sup>..... (you/do) last night?  
**B:** I <sup>2</sup>..... (go) to the cinema.  
**A:** What film <sup>3</sup>..... (you/see)?  
**B:** The Pink Panther II.

- 2 **A:** Why <sup>1</sup>..... (not/Emily/come) to Terry's party yesterday?  
**B:** She <sup>2</sup>..... (have) to study for an exam.

- 3 **A:** I <sup>1</sup>..... (read) the book you <sup>2</sup>..... (give) me about dinosaurs.  
**B:** <sup>3</sup>..... (you/like) it?  
**A:** Yes. It <sup>4</sup>..... (be) very interesting.

- 4 **A:** Where <sup>1</sup>..... (you/spend) your summer holidays?  
**B:** We <sup>2</sup>..... (go) to Jamaica.  
**A:** Really? What <sup>3</sup>..... (it/be) like?  
**B:** Great!

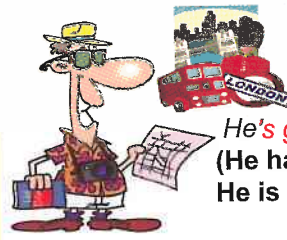
3. Use the **past simple** form of the verbs in the list to fill in the gaps in the following sentences. Which sentences refer to:

- actions which happened at a specific time in the past
- past habits
- people who are no longer alive
- actions which happened one after the other in the past

• be • play • ~~catch~~ • spend • walk • buy

- 1 Tony .... *caught* ..... the bus to school yesterday.  
*actions which happened at a specific time in the past.*
- 2 Heath Ledger ..... a talented actor.  
 .....
- 3 They left the cinema and ..... to the train station  
 .....
- 4 Mark and his band ..... at the concert hall last Saturday .  
 .....
- 5 My father ..... every summer in the countryside when he was a boy.  
 .....
- 6 Larry ..... computer games yesterday afternoon.  
 .....

have gone to / have been to / have been in



*He's gone to London.*  
 (He hasn't come back yet. He is still in London.)



*He's been to London once.*  
 (He's visited London. He's back now.)  
 (Present Perfect Tense form of the verb 'to go')



*I've been in Italy for a month. (I am in Italy.)*  
 (Present Perfect Tense form of the verb 'to be')

4. Fill in the gaps with: **has/have gone to**, **has/have been to** or **has/have been in**.

- 1 You can't see Tom before Wednesday. He *has*... *gone to*... Denmark for a few days on business.
- 2 My sister ..... Bristol for two months now.
- 3 Wendy isn't here at the moment. She ..... the supermarket to buy some milk and eggs.
- 4 The Miltons ..... Sweden twice.
- 5 Greg and Terry ..... the park to play football. They'll be back by 6 o'clock.
- 6 Jenny's brother ..... hospital since Monday.
- 7 ..... you ever ..... the opera?
- 8 Jim ..... the cinema. He left an hour ago.
- 9 **A:** ..... France?  
**B:** No, I haven't but I'd like to go one day.
- 10 **A:** I'm afraid Sue and Pam can't come with us. They want to visit their grandmother.  
**B:** She ..... hospital for a long time, hasn't she?
- 11 **A:** How long ..... you ..... Mexico?  
**B:** For nearly three years.
- 12 **A:** Do you know where Mum is?  
**B:** I think she ..... the post office to get some stamps.

5. Fill in: **have - has gone to, have - has been in/to.**

- 1 **A:** May I speak to Mr Stephens, please?  
**B:** Mr Stephens isn't here right now. He *has* *gone to* London.
- 2 **A:** ..... you ever .....  
 Canada?  
**B:** Yes, I went in 2001.
- 3 **A:** How's Phil? Is he still ill?  
**B:** Yes. He ..... hospital for a week.
- 4 **A:** Where are Jack and Diane?  
**B:** They ..... Bristol for the weekend.

6. Put the verbs in brackets into the **past simple** or the **present perfect.**

- 1 **A:** I *went* (**go**) to the new Mexican restaurant yesterday.  
**B:** I ..... (**never/be**) there. Did you like it?
- 2 **A:** I ..... (**not/see**) Ann for a very long time.  
**B:** Really? I ..... (**see**) her yesterday at the gym.
- 3 **A:** How long ..... (**they/be**) married?  
**B:** Only for a year. They ..... (**get**) married last June.
- 4 **A:** Shall I help you tidy up the kitchen?  
**B:** No, you don't have to. I ..... (**already/do**) it.
- 5 **A:** When ..... (**you/move**) house, David?  
**B:** Three days ago but I ..... (**not/unpack**) yet.
- 6 **A:** Do you like Chinese food?  
**B:** Actually, I ..... (**never/try**) it.
- 7 **A:** I ..... (**just/finish**) my essay.  
**B:** Really? I ..... (**write**) mine yesterday evening.
- 8 **A:** How long ..... (**you/live**) in America?  
**B:** I ..... (**come**) here in 2004.
- 9 **A:** ..... (**you/type**) the letters yet?  
**B:** Yes, I ..... (**finish**) them half an hour ago and ..... (**give**) them to Mr Harris.

7. Use the **present simple**, the **present continuous** and the **present perfect** to complete the e-mail.



Hi Faye!

How are you? I'm so sorry I <sup>1</sup> *haven't written* (**not/write**) for so long but I <sup>2</sup> ..... (**be**) very busy with school lately. <sup>3</sup> ..... (**you/like**) your new school? We <sup>4</sup> ..... (**have**) a new English teacher, Mrs Adams.

She's very nice but sometimes she <sup>5</sup> ..... (**give**) us a lot of homework. She's from Canada and she <sup>6</sup> ..... (**only/be**) in England for a few months. She <sup>7</sup> ..... (**love**) it here. Next week, she <sup>8</sup> ..... (**take**) us on a school trip to a historic castle. I can't wait!

So, what about you? <sup>9</sup> ..... (**you/make**) any new friends so far?

Well, that's all for now. Somebody <sup>10</sup> ..... (**knock**) at my door, so I have to go! Write back soon!

Love,  
 Sally

8. **Underline the correct item.**

- 1 I have typed ten letters so far / yet.
- 2 You always forget / are always forgetting to lock the front door!
- 3 The play starts / is starting at 8 o'clock.
- 4 She usually has / is having a big breakfast in the morning.
- 5 Craig is looking for a new flat these days / on Fridays.
- 6 They were / have been friends since 2002.
- 7 The sun sets / is setting in the west.
- 8 Timothy called / has called me just now.
- 9 They have known each other since / for five years.

9. Choose the correct item.

- 1 I ..... Mrs Williams is an excellent teacher.  
**a)** believe      **b)** am believing      **c)** believing
- 2 Kevin ..... late for school.  
**a)** never is      **b)** never be      **c)** is never
- 3 Greg ..... to the gym three times a week.  
**a)** is going      **b)** goes      **c)** going
- 4 He ..... about school and homework.  
**a)** is always complaining  
**b)** complains always  
**c)** always is complaining
- 5 Ivan ..... to school every morning.  
**a)** walk      **b)** is walking      **c)** walks
- 6 What time ..... them tonight?  
**a)** do you see      **b)** you see      **c)** are you seeing
- 7 Sally ..... goes to the theatre. She thinks it's boring.  
**a)** never      **b)** often      **c)** usually
- 8 The new band ..... on MTV tonight.  
**a)** appear      **b)** appears      **c)** is appearing
- 9 Ruth ..... of moving to Paris next year.  
**a)** thinks      **b)** thinking      **c)** is thinking
- 10 He ..... a letter to his friend at the moment.  
**a)** is writing      **b)** write      **c)** writes

10. Circle the correct item.

- 1 Where were you all day **yesterday** / today? I couldn't get hold of you.
- 2 Vanessa **has been** / was in the library since 10 o'clock this morning.
- 3 When **have you gone** / did you go to Canada?
- 4 **How long** / How long ago have they lived in Cairo?
- 5 Mei is looking for a job but she **didn't find** / hasn't found anything yet.
- 6 Xenia **spent** / has spent a month in India last summer.
- 7 Sophie has been very busy **this week** / last week.
- 8 Have you **ever** / never tried skydiving?
- 9 I **have been in** / have been to Brussels for two weeks. I'm leaving tomorrow.
- 10 Have you heard the news? My aunt **has just had** / just had a baby!

11. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the past simple.

- 1 When ... **did you buy** ... (you/buy) your bike? It looks quite new.
- 2 Joan ..... (visit) her grandparents twice this week.
- 3 Mr Rothman ..... (go) to Australia. He's coming back next week.
- 4 How long ..... (they/be) friends?
- 5 We ..... (not/see) Craig since Monday. Why don't we give him a call?
- 6 How long ago ..... (they/move) to Melbourne?
- 7 He took off his jacket and quietly ..... (sit) at his desk.
- 8 My dad was a great fan of The Beatles. He once ..... (go) to their concerts in Liverpool.
- 9 I ..... (meet) Britney Spears. She is very sweet.
- 10 Brian ..... (go) to Rome several times. His family is there.
- 11 **A:** Last night I ..... (see) the latest James Bond film.  
**B:** Oh, I ..... (already/see) it twice.
- 12 **A:** Do you know that Mrs Jones ..... (work) here for sixteen years?  
**B:** I thought she ..... (start) working here ten years ago.
- 13 **A:** ..... (you/ever/meet) anyone famous?  
**B:** Yes, last summer I ..... (sit) next to Brad Pitt on a plane to LA.
- 14 **A:** How long ago ..... (you/start) painting?  
**B:** Ten years ago. I ..... (recently/complete) a painting that the National Gallery ..... (ask) me to do a year ago.
- 15 **A:** ..... (you/ever/go) to India?  
**B:** Yes, I ..... (go) there last summer.
- 16 **A:** ..... (you/speak) to Chloe?  
**B:** No, she ..... (go) to the post office. She ..... (not/come) back yet.
- 17 **A:** ..... (you/ever/eat) Mexican food?  
**B:** Yes, I ..... (try) it for the first time last week.
- 18 **A:** I ..... (go) to the new cinema yesterday.  
**B:** It's nice, isn't it? I ..... (go) there a few times.

**12. Fill in the gaps with time adverbs or expressions from the list below:**

- ago • so far • ~~how long~~ • just • for
- since (x2) • how long ago • yet • ever
- just now • already

- 1 *How long*... have you been in Rome?
- 2 I've ..... been to that new restaurant. It's really nice.
- 3 ..... did he move house?
- 4 The boss came .....
- 5 Peter has been here ..... 5 o'clock.
- 6 They got married a month .....
- 7 He hasn't called us .....
- 8 I've had this car ..... a year.
- 9 Tim isn't here. He's ..... gone out.
- 10 She's typed three letters .....
- 11 Has Camila ..... lied to you?
- 12 I've studied Maths ..... 2006.

**13. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the past simple.**

- A:** Hi, Sarah. I <sup>1</sup>... *haven't seen*... (not/see) you for a long time. Where <sup>2</sup>..... (you/be)?
- B:** I <sup>3</sup>..... (go) to China to teach English.
- A:** Wow! How <sup>4</sup>..... (be) it?
- B:** Very nice! I <sup>5</sup>..... (stay) in Beijing and <sup>6</sup>..... (teach) eight-year-old children.
- A:** How <sup>7</sup>..... (you/find) teaching them?
- B:** Great! The children <sup>8</sup>..... (be) clever and <sup>9</sup>..... (learn) very quickly. What <sup>10</sup>..... (you/be) up to?
- A:** Nothing as interesting as that! I <sup>11</sup>..... (just/finish) my exams.
- B:** That's good. Do you have any plans for the summer?
- A:** Yes, I <sup>12</sup>..... (buy) a ticket to Italy. I'm planning to stay with my cousin, Sabrina, for a month.
- B:** That's great! Sabrina is a lot of fun. I'm sure you'll have a great time. Don't forget to send me a postcard.
- A:** Okay! Take care. Speak to you when I get back.

**14. Fill in: since, for, already, just or yet.**

- 1 John has *just* finished his homework. His books are still on the table.
- 2 I haven't seen Sarah ..... 2007.
- 3 They haven't bought the tickets for the concert .....
- 4 We've lived here ..... ten years.
- 5 He's ..... come back from jogging and he's a bit tired.
- 6 We've ..... seen that film. Can we watch something else?

**15. Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect.**



- 1 Victoria Falls ..... *has been*..... (be) a popular tourist attraction for many years.
- 2 In 1855, David Livingstone, a Scottish explorer, ..... (name) the falls after Queen Victoria.
- 3 The African government ..... (open) two national parks near the falls to protect wild animals.
- 4 The Victoria Falls Bridge is one of the most famous bridges in the world. It ..... (take) just 14 months to build and ..... (be) ready in April, 1905.
- 5 Over 50,000 people ..... (try) bungee jumping off the Victoria Falls Bridge so far.

**16. Write sentences about yourself. Use the present perfect.**

- 1 not play tennis since ...  
*I haven't played tennis since last weekend...*
- 2 live here for ...
- 3 have my pet dog for ...
- 4 know my best friend since ...
- 5 not go to the cinema for ...