



PRESENT PERFECT VS PAST SIMPLE

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1. Look at the examples

Read the sentences.

A. Present Perfect	B. Past Simple
• I have visited Thailand three times. • She has never eaten sushi. • We have just finished lunch. • Have you ever been to London? • He hasn't finished his homework yet.	• I visited Thailand in 2024. • She ate sushi last night. • We finished lunch at 1:00. • Did you go to London last year? • He didn't finish his homework yesterday.

2. The important difference

Use the **Present Perfect** when the exact finished time is not important or when the action has a connection to now.

I have visited Thailand three times.

- The important information is my experience.
- Use the Past Simple when we talk about a finished time in the past.

I visited Thailand in 2024.

- "In 2024" tells us exactly when.

4. Complete the sentences

Choose Present Perfect or Past Simple.

1. I _____ (visit) Paris three times.
2. I _____ (visit) Paris in 2023.
3. She _____ (finish) her homework already.
4. She _____ (finish) her homework at 8:00 last night.
5. We _____ (see) that film last weekend.
6. We _____ (see) that film before.
7. _____ you ever _____ (eat) Indian food?
8. _____ you _____ (eat) Indian food yesterday?
9. Tom _____ (not call) me yet.
10. Tom _____ (not call) me yesterday.
11. They _____ (live) here since 2022.
12. They _____ (move) here in 2022.

3. Remember these time expressions

Present Perfect

- ever
- never
- just
- already
- yet
- since
- for
- recently
- so far

Past Simple

- yesterday
- last week
- last year
- two days ago
- in 2020
- when I was young
- on Monday

5. What is the difference?

Read each pair. Explain why the tense is different.

1. I have lost my keys.
I lost my keys yesterday.
2. She has been to Japan.
She went to Japan last year.
3. We have finished the project.
We finished the project on Friday.

Write one short explanation for each pair.

REAL ENGLISH BOX

Have you ever...?

This is a very common way to ask about life experiences.

- Have you ever been to China?
- Have you ever tried Korean food?
- Have you ever ridden a horse?

Answer:

Yes, I have.

No, I haven't.

To ask for more information, use the Past Simple:

A: Have you ever been to China?

B: Yes, I have.

A: When did you go?

B: I went in 2023.

Teacher's Key – PDF 1

Activity 4

1. have visited
2. visited
3. has finished
4. finished
5. saw
6. have seen
7. Have / eaten
8. Did / eat
9. hasn't called
10. didn't call
11. have lived
12. moved

Activity 5 – Suggested answers

1. “Have lost” = the keys are lost now / connection to now. “Lost” = finished past time, yesterday.
2. “Has been” = life experience. “Went” = finished past time, last year.
3. “Have finished” = result is important now. “Finished” = completed at a finished time, Friday.