

GRAMMAR SUPPLEMENT

PRESENT PERFECT vs SIMPLE PAST

1.1 FORM

With most verbs, the simple past form and the past participle (used in present perfect) look the same, being formed by **adding -ed** to the base form:

<i>called</i>	<i>wanted</i>	<i>worked</i>	<i>liked</i>	<i>studied</i>	<i>played</i>	<i>stopped</i>
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But there are a lot of irregular past simple and past participle forms in English. Here are the most common irregular past simple forms (the second column) and past participles forms (the third column):

Base Form	Past (Affirmative) Form	Past Participle
be	was / were	been
begin	began	begun
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
build	built	built
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
do	do	done
draw	drew	drawn
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
feel	felt	felt
find	found	found
get	got	got / gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hold	held	held
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
leave	left	left
let	let	let
lose	lost	lost

Base Form	Past (Affirmative) Form	Past Participle
make	made	made
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
read	read	read
run	ran	run
say	said	said
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
sit	sat	sat
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
understand	understood	understood
wear	wore	worn
win	won	won
write	wrote	written

1.2 USE

a) We use the **past simple** to talk about something that started and finished in the past. It happened in the past:

- They worked here for 10 years, but now they're retired.
- She lived in Santiago all her life before she moved to Puerto Cisne.
- We were fans of swimming when we lived near a lake.

But we use the **present perfect** to talk about something that started in the past and continues in the present:

- They have worked here for 10 years.
- She has lived in Santiago all her life.
- We have always been fans of swimming.

b) We use the **past simple** to talk about our experiences in the past:

- I never saw films on Netflix because I didn't have Netflix.
- Tom rode a motorcycle to work.
- I appeared in the last Star Wars movie.

But we use the **present perfect** to talk about our experiences up to the present:

- I've seen that film before.
- Tom has ridden a motorcycle.
- I've never appeared in a movie.

c) We use the **present perfect** ever-questions and their answers:

- A: Have you ever tried pineapple pizza?
B: Yes, I have.
- A: Have you ever met a celebrity?
B: No, I haven't.
- A: Has she ever played tennis professionally?
B: Yes, she has.

We (usually) use the **past simple** with *wh*-questions and their answers:

- A: **When** did you try pineapple pizza?
B: When I was in Hawaii.
- A: **Where** did you meet a celebrity?
B: I met one at a restaurant in Hollywood.
- A: **Why** did she write that email?
B: She wrote it because it was urgent.

Usually, the first question is an **ever-question**. If the answer is "yes", we may ask a follow-up **wh-question**:

- | | |
|---|---|
| · A: <u>Have you ever lost</u> your keys? | B: Yes, I <u>have</u> . |
| A: When <u>did you lose</u> them? | B: I <u>lost</u> them when I was distracted. |
| · A: <u>Have you ever taken</u> an Uber? | B: Yes, I <u>have</u> . |
| A: Why <u>did you take</u> an Uber? | B: I <u>took</u> an Uber because I was late for work. |
| · A: <u>Have you ever seen</u> a snake? | B: Yes, I <u>have</u> . |
| A: Where <u>did you see</u> it? | B: I <u>saw</u> it when I was in a national park. |

- ### 1.4 Practice Exercise B

Love,
Sandy

1.5 Practice Exercise C

Use the past simple or present perfect form of these verbs. Use each verb twice.

visit	play	lose	miss	know
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- Last night I my keys - I had to call my flat mate to let me in.
- I my keys - can you help me look for them?
- I Paris three times.
- Last year I Paris.
- I my great grandmother for a few years - she died when I was eight.
- I Julie for three years - we still meet once a month.
- I hockey since I was a child - I'm pretty good!
- She hockey at school but she didn't like it.
- Sorry, I the bus - I'm going to be late.
- I the bus and then I the airplane as well!

1.6 Practice Exercise D

Unscramble the words to create correct sentences. Some are present perfect and some are past simple.

- broke / can't go / her leg / skiing / Lucía / she / so
.....
- in a meeting / has arrived / Julia / now / at work / she's / but
.....
- was / a fan / when / I / a kid / I / of cartoons / was
.....
- finished / the lab report / have / yet / you
..... ?
- announced / just / Friday / a holiday / they've / is
.....

6. never / Dr. Bevin's / attended / lecture / I've

.....

7. about the problem / haven't found / they've / yet / known / for months / but / they / a solution

.....

8. spent / last year / we / a lot of / on vacation / money

.....

1.7 Answer Key

Practice exercise A

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. b) Have you ever been | 6. a) Did you buy |
| 2. a) 've visited | 7. a) has been |
| 3. b) 've tried | 8. b) 've just had |
| 4. b) was sent | 9. b) did you see |
| 5. b) has taken | 10. a) 've left |

Practice exercise B.

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. have visited | 6. have arrived |
| 2. started | 7. explored |
| 3. Have you been | 8. climbed |
| 4. went | 9. have read |
| 5. have never seen | 10. has been |

Practice exercise C.

1. Last night I lost my keys - I had to call my flat mate to let me in.
2. I have lost my keys - can you help me look for them?
3. I have visited Paris three times.
4. Last year I visited Paris.
5. I knew my great grandmother for a few years - she died when I was eight.
6. I have known Julie for three years - we still meet once a month.
7. I have played hockey since I was a child - I'm pretty good!
8. She played hockey at school but she didn't like it.
9. Sorry, I have missed the bus - I'm going to be late.
10. I missed the bus and then I missed the airplane as well!

Practice exercise D.

1. Lucía broke her leg so she can't go skiing.
2. Julia has arrived at work, but she's in a meeting now.
3. I was a fan of cartoons when I was a kid.
4. Have you finished the lab report yet?
5. They've just announced Friday is a holiday.
6. I've never attended Dr. Bevin's lecture.
7. They've known about the problem for months, but they haven't found a solution yet.
8. We spent a lot of money on vacation last year.