



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:

call ed want ed work ed	lik ed st	tudi ed play e d	stopp ed
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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 <u>lived</u> 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 <u>has ridden</u> 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 have.

A: When did you lose them?

B: I lost them when I was distracted.

A: Have you ever taken an Uber?

B: Yes, I have.

A: Why did you take an Uber?

B: I took an Uber because I was late for work.

A: Have you ever seen a snake?

B: Yes, I have.

A: Where did you see it?

B: I saw it when I was in a national park.





- d) We use the **present perfect** with certain time adverbs connected to the present: *just, recently, already / yet, for, since, today, this...week / month / year*
- · I've just heard the news.
- · The weather has recently been very good.
- · The study has already been completed, but the data hasn't been analyzed yet.
- Lisa has been a teacher for 10 years. She's worked here since she graduated.
- We <u>haven't had</u> any tests <u>this month</u>.
- · I've had four cups of coffee today.

We use the **simple past** with certain time adverbs connected to the past: ...ago, yesterday, when..., before..., after..., last...week / month / year / night

- · Larry worked in a factory 10 years ago.
- · It rained a lot, yesterday.
- · I had a good time when I visited the museum.

Complete the sentences with the best option.

- · I put on my coat before I left.
- · We had an interesting conversation after we finished dinner.
- Terry graduated last year.

1.3 Practice Exercise A

•	•
1 to Canada's	s Pacific coast?
a) Did you ever go	b) Have you ever been
2. I a lot of in	teresting cities in my life, but New York is my favorite
a) 've visited	b) visited
3. I Mexican	food several times, but it's generally too spicy for me
a) tried	b) 've tried
4. You should already have the in	formation. It a few days ago.
a) has been sent	b) was sent
5. My dad ab	out 200 photos so far on this trip.
a) took	b) has taken
6 any souver	nirs when you were in Peru?
a) Did you buy	b) Have you bought





7. The metro	an important means of transport since 1979.
a) has been	b) was
8. Ilun	ch, so I'm not hungry.
a) just had	b) 've just had
9. When	Michael?
a) have you seen	b) did you see
10. Oh no! I	my wallet on the table at the restaurant.
a) 've left	b) left
1.4 Practice Exercise B Complete the email. Use the Dear Connie,	e present perfect or past simple form of the verbs in parentheses.
two cities – Paris and Ams go)	in Florence, in Italy. Yesterday we (7: explore) d town on foot. Then we (8: climb)
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	
1.	Las	t night I	m	ny keys - I had t	o call my flat ma	ate to let me in.	
2.	1		my keys - c	an you help me	look for them?		
3.	1		Paris three	times.			
4.	Last year I Paris.						
5.	I my great grandmother for a few years - she died when I was eight.						
6.	I Julie for three years - we still meet once a month.						
7.	I hockey since I was a child - I'm pretty good!						
8.	She hockey at school but she didn't like it.						
9.	Sor	ry, I	the b	us - I'm going to	be late.		
10.	.1		the bus and	then I	the	airplane as wel	l!
1.6	i Pra	ctice Exercise	D				
		mble the words nple.	to create corre	ct sentences. S	ome are presen	t perfect and sor	ne are
1.	brol	ke / can't go / h	er leg / skiing /	Lucía / she / so			
2.	in a	meeting / has a	arrived / Julia /	now / at work / s	she's / but		
3.	was	s / a fan / when	/ I / a kid / I / of	cartoons / was			
4.	finis	shed / the lab re	port / have / ye	t / you			
					?)	
5.	ann	ounced / just / l	Friday / a holida	ay / 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

b) Have you ever been
 a) 've visited
 b) 've tried
 b) was sent
 b) did you buy
 b) 've just had
 b) did you see
 b) has taken
 d. a) 've left

Practice exercise B.

have visited
 started
 Have you been
 went
 have read
 have never seen
 have arrived
 explored
 climbed
 have read
 have 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.