Past Simple vs. Present Perfect Tense

Past Simple Tense

Used to describe an action that started and finished in the past.

Time Expressions:

Yesterday, last week/month/year, three days ago, etc.

Formula:

Subject + Verb + -ed or Irregular Verb

Finished Time → I lived in New York for five years.

Definite Time → I met Cece in 2005 when we were kids.

Series of Finished Actions

First, she cooked dinner for her kids, and then she washed the dishes.

Present Simple Tense

Used to describe an action completed in the past. It can describe habitual or repeated actions/one-time event.

Formula:

Subject + Have/Has + Verb + -ed or Irregular Verb

Unfinished Time → I have seen Jera twice this lunch time.

Indefinite Time → I have read that book recently.

Results → He has already read this book twice.



PRESENT PERFECT VS. PAST SIMPLE EXERCISES

1. Which sentence is in the Present Perfect Tense?
a) I visited Paris last summer.
b) She has lived in London for five years.
c) They went to the concert last night.

2. Choose the sentence that uses the Past Simple Tense correctly.
a) We have finished our homework.
b) She has met him before.
c) They ate dinner at 7 PM.

3. Which sentence indicates an action that happened at an unspecified time?
a) I saw that play last weekend.
b) He has never been to Japan.
c) She called me yesterday.

4. Identify the sentence that uses Present Perfect Tense for a recent action.
a) I went to the store this morning.
b) She has just finished her book.
c) They were at the party last Friday.

5. Which sentence is correct for describing an action at a specific time in the past?
a) I have met her at the conference.
b) They have traveled to Spain last summer.
c) I met her at the conference.

6. Choose the sentence that suggests an experience without specifying when it happened.
a) I visited my grandmother two days ago.
b) He has traveled to many countries.
c) She finished her assignment yesterday.

7. Which sentence correctly uses the Past Simple Tense to describe a completed action?
a) They have seen that movie already.
b) She has graduated from university.
c) He played soccer yesterday.

8. Identify the sentence that uses Present Perfect Tense to show a continuing situation.
a) She has worked here since June.
b) They watched the game last night.
c) I read that book last year.

9. Choose the sentence that describes an action repeated up to the present.
a) I have run five marathons so far.
b) She met her friends yesterday.
c) They have traveled to Paris once.

10. Which of the following sentences is in the Past Simple Tense?
a) I have just received the package.
b) They had visited the museum.
c) We watched a movie last night.

ANSWER KEY
1. **B**
2. **C**
3. **B**
4. **B**
5. **C**
6. **B**
7. **C**
8. **A**
9. **A**
10. **C**

PRESENT PERFECT VS. PAST SIMPLE EXERCISES

1. We _____ **(talk)** endlessly on the phone last night.
2. I _____ **(graduate)** recently.
3. She _____ **(work)** in this company for six years.
4. The sun _____ **(rise)**.
5. The sun _____ **(set)** at 6:35 PM yesterday.

For example: Know
Simple Past: Knew | **Present Perfect:** Has/have known

1. **Cry**

Past Simple: _____

Present Perfect: _____

2. **Keep**

Past Simple: _____

Present Perfect: _____

3. **Meet**

Past Simple: _____

Present Perfect: _____

4. **Walk**

Past Simple _____

Present Perfect: _____

5. **Read**

Past Simple: _____

Present Perfect: _____

PRESENT PERFECT VS. PAST SIMPLE EXERCISES

FOR KIDS

Read each sentence and decide if it uses the Present Perfect Tense or the Past Simple Tense. Underline "Present Perfect" or "Past Simple."

1. I have read five books this summer.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

2. She played with her friends yesterday.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

3. They have never been to the zoo.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

4. We went to the beach last weekend.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

5. He has just finished his homework.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

6. I ate pizza for dinner last night.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

7. She has visited her grandma this month.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

8. We saw a movie last Friday.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

9. He has traveled to many countries.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

10. I found my lost toy yesterday.

PRESENT PERFECT **PAST SIMPLE**

ANSWER KEY
1. **Present Perfect**
2. **Past Simple**
3. **Present Perfect**
4. **Past Simple**
5. **Present Perfect**
6. **Past Simple**
7. **Present Perfect**
8. **Past Simple**
9. **Present Perfect**
10. **Past Simple**