

Past Simple and Present Perfect

Exercises

Corso di Laurea in Economia e Gestione Aziendale

Corso di Laurea in Economia e Finanza

Esercitazioni di Lingua Inglese

a.a. 2019/2020

Enrica Moi

moi.enrica@gmail.com

Past simple exercises

Past simple

- **AFFIRMATIVE FORM:**
 - **SUBJECT + VERB+ED** (*regular verbs*)
 - He started composing at the age of five.
 - **NEGATIVE FORM:**
 - **SUBJECT + DID + NOT + VERB***
 - They didn't invite us to their party.
 - **INTERROGATIVE FORM:**
 - **DID + SUBJECT + VERB***
 - Did you have the time to do the shopping?
- * Note that we do not use did in negatives and questions with was/were:**
- Was the weather good when you were on holiday?
 - They **weren't** able to come because they were so busy.

Past simple - exercises

- **Write sentences using the past simple of the verb *be* and the prompts below:**
 1. They / only five / when their family moved to Leeds.
 2. Paul / not concerned / about the test.
 3. I / not happy / to miss the concert.
 4. You / late / for the show?
 5. Who / the Danish girl with your brother?

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- They **were** only five when their family moved to Leeds.
- Paul **wasn't** concerned about the test.
- I **wasn't** happy to miss the concert.
- **Were** you late for the show?
- **Who was** the Danish girl with your brother?

Past simple - exercises

1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



Laura

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- | | | | | |
|---|------------|------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 | She got up | at 7 o'clock. | 7 | at 5 o'clock. |
| 2 | She | a big breakfast. | 8 | tired when |
| 3 | She | | 9 | a meal yesterday evening. |
| 4 | It | to get to work. | 10 | out yesterday evening. |
| 5 | | at 8.45. | 11 | at 11 o'clock. |
| 6 | | lunch. | 12 | well last night. |

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- 1) She got up
- 2) She had
- 3) She walked to work
- 4) It took her (about) half an hour
- 5) She started work
- 6) She didn't have (any) lunch. /
.... eat (any) lunch.
- 7) She finished work
- 8) She was tired when she got home
- 9) She cooked
- 10) She didn't go
- 11) She went to bed
- 12) She slept

Past simple - exercises

Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

Buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw

1. 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father _____ me.'
2. We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we _____ it.
3. Dave _____ down the stairs this morning and _____ his leg.
4. Joe _____ the ball to Sue, who _____ it.
5. Ann _____ a lot of money yesterday. She _____ a dress which _____ £ 150.

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- 1) Taught
- 2) Sold
- 3) Fell ... hurt
- 4) Threw ... caught
- 5) Spent ... bought ... cost

Past simple - exercises

Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative:

1. It was warm, so I _____ off my coat. (take)
2. The film wasn't very good. I _____ it much. (enjoy)
3. I knew Sarah was busy, so I _____ her. (disturb)
4. We were very tired, so we _____ the party early. (leave)
5. The bed was very uncomfortable. I _____ well. (sleep)
6. The window was open and a bird _____ into the room. (fly)
7. The hotel wasn't very expensive. It _____ much to stay there. (cost)
8. I was in a hurry, so I _____ time to phone you. (have)

Past simple - exercises

Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative:

9. It was hard carrying the bags. They _____ very heavy. (be)
10. The book was boring. I _____ it. (like)
11. She _____ a lot because she _____ very hungry. (eat, be)
12. The concert was too expensive, so they _____. (go)
13. There was a film on TV last night, but we _____ it. (see)
14. She loves Colombia. She _____ there for six months. (live)
15. I was really busy yesterday so I _____ my homework. (do)
16. I _____ my sister a dress for her birthday. (give)

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- 1) Took
- 2) Didn't enjoy
- 3) Didn't disturb
- 4) Left
- 5) Didn't sleep
- 6) Flew
- 7) Didn't cost
- 8) Didn't have
- 9) Were
- 10) Didn't like
- 11) ate , was
- 12) didn't go
- 13) didn't see
- 14) lived
- 15) didn't do
- 16) gave

Past simple - exercises

- **Complete Charles Dickens' biography using the past simple of the verbs in brackets:**

Charles Dickens **(1)** _____ (to be) born in Portsmouth in 1812. The Dickens family **(2)** _____ (to move) to London in 1814 and later to Chatham, Kent, where Charles **(3)** _____ (to spend) the early years of his childhood. The family **(4)** _____ (to come) back to London in 1822 and **(5)** _____ (to settle) in a poor neighbourhood. The worst moment in Dickens's life **(6)** _____ (to occur) in 1824, when his father **(7)** _____ (to go) to prison for debt and Charles **(8)** _____ (to start) to work in a factory. He **(9)** _____ (to be) only 12. This **(10)** _____ (to have) deep psychological effects on him. It **(11)** _____ (to make) him experience poverty first-hand and **(12)** _____ (to turn) him into the most influential voice of the working classes of his time.

Past simple - exercises

In 1833 Dickens **(13)** _____ (to begin) to write for magazines and periodicals. He **(14)** _____ (to adopt) the pseudonym Boz and in 1836 he **(15)** _____ (to marry) Catherine Hogarth. He **(16)** _____ (to continue) his journalistic work until the end of his life but he also **(17)** _____ (to write) a lot of successful novels. In 1842 he **(18)** _____ (to travel) with his wife to the United States, before they **(19)** _____ (to go) to Kent. In the last years Dickens's health **(20)** _____ (to worsen). He **(21)** _____ (to die) in 1870.

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1- Was | 12- turned |
| 2- moved | 13- began |
| 3- spent | 14- adopted |
| 4- came | 15- married |
| 5- settled | 16- continued |
| 6- occurred | 17- wrote |
| 7- went | 18- travelled |
| 8- started | 19- went |
| 9- was | 20- worsened |
| 10- had | 21- died |
| 11- made | |

Past simple - exercises

- **Write suitable questions for these answers using question words.**
1. I spent my holidays in the mountains.
 2. They got married in 1985.
 3. Mum bought some plums and grapes.
 4. I chose the red pen, not the black one.
 5. He read three books last summer.

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- 1- Where did you spend your holidays?
- 2- When did they get married?
- 3- What did mum buy?
- 4- Which pen did you choose?
- 5- How many books did he read last summer? / When did he read three books?

Past simple - exercises

PRONUNCIATION. The verbs end with /t/, /d/ or /id/. **Underline the odd one out.**

1. a kissed b watched
c played d stopped
2. a wanted b needed
c waited d washed
3. a lived b worked
c moved d rained
4. a liked b finished
c ended d wished
5. a believed b loved
c saved d hated

Past simple - exercises

Answer key:

- | | | | | |
|----|-----------------|------|-----------------|------|
| 1. | a kissed | /t/ | b watched | /t/ |
| | <u>c played</u> | /d/ | d stopped | /t/ |
| 2. | a wanted | /id/ | b needed | /id/ |
| | c waited | /id/ | <u>d washed</u> | /t/ |
| 3. | a lived | /d/ | <u>b worked</u> | /t/ |
| | c moved | /d/ | d rained | /d/ |
| 4. | a liked | /t/ | b finished | /t/ |
| | <u>c ended</u> | /id/ | d wished | /t/ |
| 5. | a believed | /d/ | b loved | /d/ |
| | c saved | /d/ | <u>d hated</u> | /id/ |

Present Perfect exercises

Present Perfect

- **AFFIRMATIVE FORM:**
- **SUBJECT + HAVE/HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE**
- Police have arrested two men in connection with the robbery.
- **NEGATIVE FORM:**
- **SUBJECT + HAVE/HAS + NOT + PAST PARTICIPLE**
- I haven't seen Tom this morning.
- **INTERROGATIVE FORM:**
- **HAVE/HAS + SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE**
- Have you travelled a lot, Jane?

Present Perfect - exercises

- Complete the sentences using the present perfect of the verbs in brackets:
 1. I _____ (to buy) a new computer.
 2. Tom _____ (to find) his wallet.
 3. Andy _____ (to repair) his sister's bike.
 4. Parliament _____ (not to play) an important part in the negotiation.
 5. Dad _____ (not to take) us to the Super Bowl in the last few year.

Present Perfect - exercises

- **Complete the sentences using the present perfect of the verbs in brackets:**

6. The students _____ (not to forget) their lesson.
7. What _____ (you / to drop) in the kitchen?
8. _____ (Brad / to phone) Nathalie yet?
9. _____ (your friends / not to arrive) yet?
10. Joe _____ (to go) on a trip through Mexico. He's having a lot of fun.

Present Perfect - exercises

Answer key:

1. Have bought
2. Has found
3. Has repaired
4. Hasn't played
5. Hasn't taken
6. Haven't forgotten
7. Have you dropped
8. Has Brad phoned
9. Haven't your friends arrived
10. Hasn't gone

Present Perfect - exercises

- Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive

break

fall

go up

grow

improve

lose

1. Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. Tom _____.
2. Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. Lisa _____.
3. Last week the bus fare was \$1.80. Now it is \$2. The bus fare _____.
4. Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it's better. Her English _____.
5. Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has it. Dan _____.
6. This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. The letter _____.
7. The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it's only 12. The _____.

Present Perfect - exercises

Answer key:

1. Tom has lost his key.
2. Lisa has broken her leg.
3. The bus fare has gone up.
4. Her English has improved.
5. Dan has grown a beard.
6. The letter has arrived.
7. The temperature has fallen.

Present Perfect - exercises

- **Write questions using the present perfect and the prompts below.**
 1. You / eat / dinner / yet?
 2. Jenny / lock / her car door?
 3. Walter / call / you / this week?
 4. You / ever / see / the photos of Mary's wedding?
 5. It / rain / much / recently?
 6. How many times / we / sing / that song / today?
 7. Camilla / ever / watch / the film Oliver Twist?
 8. How many articles / Bob / read / this month?

Present Perfect - exercises

Answer key:

1. Have you eaten dinner yet?
2. Has Jenny locked her car door?
3. Has Walter called you this week?
4. Have you ever seen the photos of Mary's wedding?
5. Has it rained much recently?
6. How many times have we sung that song today?
7. Has Camilla ever watched the film Oliver Twist?
8. How many articles has Bob read this month?

Present Perfect with *just*, *already*, *yet*

- Complete the sentences using *just*, *already* or *yet*.

1. Don't come in with those muddy shoes, please! I've _____ cleaned the floor!
2. I'm sorry. You have _____ missed Angela. She left five minutes ago.
3. 'Have you called your sister?' 'No, not _____.'
4. Have you finished your geography test _____ ?
5. I know Martin. I have _____ met him twice at the gym.
6. I'm sorry, I haven't received John's email _____.
7. We have _____ seen this film three times. Let's choose another one.

Present Perfect with *just*, *already*, *yet*

Answer key:

1. Don't come in with those muddy shoes, please! I've **JUST** cleaned the floor!
2. I'm sorry. You have **JUST** missed Angela. She left five minutes ago.
3. 'Have you called your sister?' 'No, not **YET**.'
4. Have you finished your geography test **YET**?
5. I know Martin. I have **ALREADY** met him twice at the gym.
6. I'm sorry, I haven't received John's email **YET**.
7. We have **ALREADY** seen this film three times. Let's choose another one.

Present Perfect with *for* and *since*

- One ending is not possible. Cross it out.
1. I haven't been to the cinema *for ages / since June / since years*.
 2. We haven't played tennis *since last year / ages ago / for months*.
 3. She's worked here *for two weeks / since three months / for a long time*.
 4. I've played the piano *since I was a child / since ages / for five years*.
 5. Have you lived here *for a long time / since January / years ago*?
 6. Has she known him *for years / since last July / for February*?
 7. I haven't seen you *since I was in India / for a year or two / since months*.
 8. He's been in the team *since two weeks / since he scored his first goal / for too long*.

Present Perfect with *for* and *since*

Answer key:

1. I haven't been to the cinema *for ages* / *since June* / ~~*since years*~~.
2. We haven't played tennis *since last year* / ~~*ages ago*~~ / *for months*.
3. She's worked here *for two weeks* / ~~*since three months*~~ / *for a long time*.
4. I've played the piano *since I was a child* / ~~*since ages*~~ / *for five years*.
5. Have you lived here *for a long time* / *since January* / ~~*years ago*~~?
6. Has she known him *for years* / *since last July* / ~~*for February*~~?
7. I haven't seen you *since I was in India* / *for a year or two* / ~~*since months*~~.
8. He's been in the team ~~*since two weeks*~~ / *since he scored his first goal* / *for too long*.

Present Perfect – *been and gone*

- Choose *been* or *gone* to complete the sentences.

1. He is on holiday at the moment. He has _____ to Spain.
2. 'Where is Monica?' 'She's not here. I think she has _____ to the bank'.
3. 'Hello, Chris. Where have you _____ ?'
4. She has _____ to Los Angeles to visit her aunt. She came back last night.
5. Have you ever _____ to Mexico?
6. I have _____ abroad a lot this year.
7. Paris is a wonderful city. I have _____ there many times
8. Alexis was here earlier but I think she has _____ now.

Present Perfect – *been* and *gone*

Answer key:

1. He is on holiday at the moment. He has **GONE** to Spain.
2. 'Where is Monica?' 'She's not here. I think she has **GONE** to the bank'.
3. 'Hello, Chris. Where have you **BEEN**?'
4. She has **BEEN** to Los Angeles to visit her aunt. She came back last night.
5. Have you ever **BEEN** to Mexico?
6. I have **BEEN** abroad a lot this year.
7. Paris is a wonderful city. I have **BEEN** there many times.
8. Alexis was here earlier but I think she has **GONE** now.



The Past Simple
versus
The Present Perfect

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- Complete the gaps in the text with the following verbs :

has learnt have always wanted has spent flew hasn't taught
hasn't got married has done has gone met

I **(1)** _____ my sister. She is younger than me and **(2)** _____ or had children. She **(3)** _____ her life travelling and living in different countries. She **(4)** _____ lots of different jobs and she **(5)** _____ to speak five languages. Now, she **(6)** _____ to Thailand. I **(7)** _____ to go there. She **(8)** _____ to Bangkok last month and **(9)** _____ a man who offered her a job in his school. She **(10)** _____ children before so she is looking forward to it. It is another new experience.

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Answer key:

I **(1) HAVE ALWAYS ADMIRED** my sister. She is younger than me and **(2) HASN'T GOT MARRIED** or had children. She **(3) HAS SPENT** her life travelling and living in different countries. She **(4) HAS DONE** lots of different jobs and she **(5) HAS LEARNED** to speak five languages. Now, she **(6) HAS GONE** to Thailand. I **(7) HAVE ALWAYS WANTED** to go there. She **(8) FLEW** to Bangkok last month and **(9) MET** a man who offered her a job in his school. She **(10) HASN'T TAUGHT** children before so she is looking forward to it. It is another new experience.

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them when necessary.

1. Did you hear about Karen? She's given up her job.
2. How many poems has William Shakespeare wrote?
3. Owl! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
4. Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
5. Who has invented paper?
6. Where have you been born?
7. Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
8. Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Answer key:

1. Did you hear about Karen? She's given up her job. **CORRECT**
2. How many poems has William Shakespeare wrote? **...did W.S. write?**
3. Owl! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding. **CORRECT**
4. Drugs have become a big problem everywhere. **CORRECT**
5. Who has invented paper? **Who invented...?**
6. Where have you been born? **...were you born?**
7. Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping. **CORRECT**
8. Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity. **Albert Einstein was
who developed....**

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- Use the words in brackets to put each of the following into either the past simple or present perfect:

1. I arrived on Monday and today is Thursday - I (be) _____ here three days.
2. I came on Monday and I left on Thursday. I (be) _____ there four days.
3. **Elizabeth:** How long (you/live) _____ in Britain?
Jana: Four years. And we really like it here.
4. Peter (been) _____ a member of the cricket team since last September.
5. I (like) _____ tennis ever since I first watched Wimbledon on TV.
6. I (work) _____ for Microsoft from 2007 to 2011.
7. What time (you/arrive) _____ home ?
8. How long (you/spend) _____ in London last summer?

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Answer key:

1. I arrived on Monday and today is Thursday - I (be) **have been** here three days.
2. I came on Monday and I left on Thursday. I (be) **was** there four days.
3. **Elizabeth**: How long (you/live) **have you lived** in Britain?
Jana: Four years. And we really like it here.
4. Peter (been) **has been** a member of the cricket team since last September.
5. I (like) **have liked** tennis ever since I first watched Wimbledon on TV.
6. I (work) **worked** for Microsoft from 2007 to 2011.
7. What time (you/arrive) **did you arrive** home ?
8. How long (you/spend) **did you spend** in London last summer?

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

1. The town where I live is very different now. _____ a lot. (it / change)
2. I studied German at school, but _____ most of it now. (I / forget)
3. The police _____ three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
4. What do you think of my English? Do you think _____ ? (it / improve)
5. A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, _____ with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
6. _____ for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
7. Where's my bike? _____ outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
8. Quick! We need to call an ambulance. _____ an accident. (there / be)
9. A: Have you heard about Ben? _____ his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How _____ ? (that / happen)
A: _____ off a ladder. (he / fall).

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Answer key:

1. The town where I live is very different now. **IT HAS CHANGED** a lot. (it / change)
2. I studied German at school, but **I'VE FORGOTTEN** most of it now. (I / forget)
3. The police **ARRESTED** three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
4. What do you think of my English? Do you think **IT HAS IMPROVED**? (it / improve)
A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: **No, I'VE FINISHED** with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
6. **I APPLIED** for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
7. Where's my bike? **IT WAS** outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
8. Quick! We need to call an ambulance. **THERE'S BEEN** an accident. (there / be)
A: Have you heard about Ben? **HE BROKE / HE'S BROKEN** his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How **DID THAT HAPPEN**? (that / happen)
A: **HE FELL** off a ladder. (he / fall).

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- **Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.**

1. (It/not/rain/this week)
2. (The weather/be/cold/recently)
3. (It/cold/last week)
4. (I/not/read/a newspaper yesterday)
5. (I/not/read/a newspaper today)
6. (Emily/earn/a lot of money/this year)
7. (She/not/earn/so much/last year)
8. (You/have/a holiday recently?)

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Answer key:

1. It hasn't rained this week.
2. The weather has been cold recently.
3. It was cold last week.
4. I didn't read a newspaper yesterday.
5. I haven't read a newspaper today.
6. Emily has earned a lot of money this year.
7. She didn't earn so much last year.
8. Have you had a holiday recently?