

Present Perfect: Versus Simple Past

FORM :

Present Perfect :
Have / has + (not) + past participle

Simple Past:
Regular / Irregular Past Verb
Did not + base verb

USE :

The Present Perfect is used :

The Simple Past is used:

To talk about something which started in the past and continues up to the present.
 e.g. *I have lived here for five years.* (I still live here).

To talk about something which started and finished in the past.
 e.g. *I lived here for five years.* (I do not live here now).

When the result of a past action is connected to the present.
 e.g. *He has lost his wallet.* (He does not have the wallet now).

When the result of a past action is not connected to the present.
 e.g. *He lost his wallet, but he found it in his jacket.*

To talk about an indefinite time up to the present, using: *ever, never, recently, already, yet.*
 e.g. *I have already finished my work.*

To talk about a definite past time, using: *yesterday, last week, ago.*
 e.g. *I finished my work two hours ago.*

With today, this morning, this afternoon, etc., when these periods of time are not finished.
 e.g. *She has spoken to Peter this morning.* (It is still morning).

With today, this morning, this afternoon, etc. when these periods of time are finished.
 e.g. *I spoke to Peter this morning.* (It is not morning anymore).

Intermediate 1 – Exercise 40 – Present Perfect: Versus Simple Past

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb. Use the PAST or PRESENT PERFECT.

1. When he first came to this country, Robert _____ (work) as a carpenter.
2. He _____ (be) sick all week.
3. I _____ (ski) in Colorado many times.
4. It is natural that the man speaks English well because he _____ (speak) English all his life.
5. From 1987 to 1992, we _____ (live) on 12th Street.
6. I _____ (see) Christine two days ago.
7. The car that I own is a Buick. I _____ (have) it for three years.
8. Mr. Evans _____ (be) a teacher in this school only since January.
9. Carol, who is now in the next class, _____ (study) Spanish for two years.
10. I _____ (hear) that story before.
11. We _____ (become) friends when we were students.
12. The hurricane _____ (last) for four hours.
13. I, myself, _____ (drive) steadily since 1991.
14. Our teacher last semester _____ (be) Mrs. White.
15. They _____ (live) on the South Shore since 1978.
16. After I last saw him, Evan _____ (feel) better.

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb. Use the PAST or PRESENT PERFECT.

1. Carol and I are old friends. I (know) _____ her since I (be) _____ a freshman in university.
2. Maria (have) _____ a lot of problems since she (come) _____ to this country.
3. I (have, not) _____ any problems since I (come) _____ here.
4. Since the semester (begin) _____, we (have) _____ three tests.
5. Mike (be) _____ in school since he (be) _____ six years old.

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6. My mother (be, not) _____ in school since she (graduate) _____ from college in 1975.
7. Since we (start) _____ doing this exercise, we (complete) _____ six sentences.
8. She (speak) _____ to me about it on Saturday.
9. We (study) _____ this lesson already.
10. Gary (be) _____ in Paris just last month.
11. Molly (lose) _____ her car keys again.
12. The students (learn) _____ twenty new words last week.
13. My husband and his colleagues (fly) _____ to Bermuda to attend a business meeting yesterday.
14. He (want) _____ to leave the city recently.
15. Linda (teach) _____ that class 3 years ago.

Choose either the PRESENT PERFECT or SIMPLE PAST for each sentence below.

1. My brother _____ (to study) karate.
2. Last night some friends and I _____ (to play) poker.
3. She _____ (to see) the movie “Titanic” four times!
4. When I was in high school, I _____ (to love) mathematics.
5. It _____ (to rain) very hard last night.
6. There _____ (to be) a lot of rain recently.
7. I _____ (to write) a few poems, but they aren’t very good.
8. Ever since I ate that pizza, I _____ (to feel—negative) very well.
9. My grandfather _____ (to come) to Canada 50 years ago.
10. My friend _____ (to start) his own business.
11. We _____ (to fly) to Hawaii in 1996.
12. I _____ (to fly) about five or six times.
13. I _____ (to see—negative) my cousin when he came to visit.
14. She _____ (to sing) for many years.
15. She _____ (to sing) in a rock band in college.
16. _____ (to finish—you) your homework yet?

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17. _____ (to finish—you) your homework last night?
18. I _____ (to talk) with my mother in a long time.
19. The last time I _____ (to see) you was last Christmas.

Choose either the PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE PAST for the blanks below. Why did you choose each tense?

Roch Voisine _____ (to be) born in New Brunswick. He _____ (to grow up) speaking French and English. He originally _____ (to want) to become a professional hockey player but he _____ (to injure) his knee. He _____ (to begin) to write songs. He _____ (to hire) a manager. In 1989, his first hit _____ (to be) a song called “Helene”. Since then he _____ (to record) albums in French and English. He _____ (to win) awards in Quebec, Canada, and France. He _____ (to sell) millions of albums in Canada and Europe. He _____ (to perform) to sold out crowds around the world.