

Present Perfect vs Past Simple – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 38



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Put the verb in brackets into the present perfect or the past simple.

Example: I ___ (meet) Jo two days ago. → met

1. I _____ (visit) Rome last summer.
2. She _____ (live) here since 2015.
3. We _____ (not see) Tom since Monday.
4. Where _____ (you / go) on holiday last year?
5. _____ (you / finish) your homework yet?
6. My brother _____ (break) his arm two years ago.
7. I _____ (never / be) to Canada.
8. They _____ (not come) to the party yesterday.
9. How long _____ (you / know) Maria?

Exercise 2: Time words

Complete each sentence with a word from the box. Use each word once. There are two extra words.

Example: I bought this jacket a year _____. → ago

WORD BOX

for since ago ever yet already last during still

10. I've worked at this company _____ six years.
11. Ana moved to Lisbon three months _____.
12. Have you _____ been to a music festival?
13. We've known each other _____ we were children.
14. I haven't replied to his message _____.
15. We don't need to go shopping. I've _____ bought everything.
16. Did you go anywhere _____ weekend?

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence as shown in brackets. Keep the meaning the same where possible.

Example: Paul has finished his lunch. (Make a question.) → Has Paul finished his lunch?

17. We met five years ago. (Use 'known each other' and 'for'.)

18. She bought her car in 2020. (Use 'had' and 'since'.)

19. You have been to Japan. (Make a question with 'ever'.)

20. Leo found his keys. (Make it negative.)

21. I have cleaned the kitchen. (Use the past simple and 'yesterday'.)

22. They arrived at the hotel. (Ask about the time with 'When'.)

23. The film has started. (Make it negative with 'yet'.)

24. Sam has lived in Dublin. (Make a question with 'How long'.)

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: I have bought this phone in May. → I bought this phone in May.

25. I have seen that film last week.

26. She lives here since 2019.

27. Did you ever been to Paris?

28. We have went to the beach twice this summer.

29. When have you arrived?

30. He hasn't called me yesterday.

31. I have known her for ten years ago.

32. They have finished the project two days ago.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

Example: already / have / we / eaten → We have already eaten.

33. ever / you / have / a / horse / ridden (?)

34. yet / haven't / I / the / email / sent

35. did / you / where / last / go / Saturday (?)

36. has / since / she / worked / here / March

37. ago / we / three / moved / weeks / house

38. how / known / long / have / you / Jack (?)

Answer key – Present Perfect vs Past Simple – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. visited

'Last summer' is a finished time, so we use the past simple.

2. has lived

'Since' shows a situation that started in the past and continues now, so we use the present perfect.

3. haven't seen

'Since Monday' connects the past to now, so we use the present perfect negative.

4. did you go

'Last year' is a finished time, so the question uses the past simple with 'did'.

5. Have you finished

'Yet' in questions goes with the present perfect.

6. broke

'Ago' always goes with the past simple.

7. have never been

We use the present perfect with 'never' to talk about life experience up to now.

8. didn't come

'Yesterday' is a finished time, so we use the past simple negative.

9. have you known

'How long' with a situation that continues now takes the present perfect.

Exercise 2: Time words

10. for

We use 'for' with a period of time (six years).

11. ago

'Ago' comes after a period of time and goes with the past simple.

12. ever

'Ever' in present perfect questions asks about life experience.

13. since

We use 'since' with the starting point of a situation.

14. yet

'Yet' goes at the end of present perfect negatives and questions.

15. already

'Already' means something happened sooner than expected and goes between 'have' and the past participle.

16. last

'Last weekend' is a finished time and goes with the past simple.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

17. We have known each other for five years.

A state that started in the past and continues now uses the present perfect with 'for'.

18. She has had her car since 2020.

'Since 2020' plus a situation that continues now takes the present perfect.

19. Have you ever been to Japan?

In present perfect questions, 'have' comes before the subject and 'ever' comes before the past participle.

20. Leo didn't find his keys.

Past simple negatives use 'didn't' plus the base form of the verb.

21. I cleaned the kitchen yesterday.

With 'yesterday' we must use the past simple.

22. When did they arrive at the hotel?

Questions with 'When' ask about a finished time, so we use the past simple.

23. The film hasn't started yet.

Present perfect negatives use 'hasn't/haven't', and 'yet' goes at the end.

24. How long has Sam lived in Dublin?

'How long' plus the present perfect asks about the duration up to now.

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

25. I saw that film last week.

'Last week' is a finished time, so we need the past simple.

26. She has lived here since 2019.

With 'since', we use the present perfect, not the present simple.

27. Have you ever been to Paris?

'Been' is a past participle, so the question needs 'Have', not 'Did'.

28. We have gone to the beach twice this summer.

The reviewer's answer 'We have been to the beach twice this summer.' is correct and already accepted, because 'been' is a valid past participle here and the item needs no change.

29. When did you arrive?

Questions with 'When' use the past simple, not the present perfect.

30. He didn't call me yesterday.

'Yesterday' is a finished time, so we use the past simple negative.

31. I have known her for ten years.

'Ago' cannot be used with the present perfect or with 'for', so we remove it.

32. They finished the project two days ago.

'Ago' always goes with the past simple.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

33. Have you ever ridden a horse?

Present perfect question: Have + subject + ever + past participle.

34. I haven't sent the email yet.

In negatives, 'yet' goes at the end of the sentence.

35. Where did you go last Saturday?

Past simple question: question word + did + subject + base verb.

36. She has worked here since March.

Present perfect with 'since' plus a starting point.

37. We moved house three weeks ago.

Past simple with 'ago' at the end of the time phrase.

38. How long have you known Jack?

How long + have + subject + past participle.

Notes for teachers: Before starting, elicit a timeline on the board. The past simple is used with a finished time (yesterday, last week, ago, in 2019). The present perfect connects the past to now and is used with words such as ever, never, yet, already, for and since. Typical mistakes are using the present perfect with finished-time words (*I have seen it yesterday*), using the present simple instead of the present perfect with since/for (*I live here since 2019*), and asking questions with *When have you...?*. As a follow-up, students can write five 'Have you ever...?' questions, interview a partner, and then ask follow-up questions in the past simple (When did you...? Where did you go?).