



Mini Lesson 053 - Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

Explanation:

The *Present Perfect* and *Past Simple* tenses are both used to talk about past events, but they are used in different contexts.

Present Perfect:

- **Form:** *have/has + past participle*

- **Use:**

1. To describe actions that happened at an unspecified time in the past.
- Example: *I have visited Paris.*
2. To talk about actions that began in the past and continue into the present.
- Example: *She has lived here for five years.*
3. To describe life experiences.
- Example: *They have never eaten sushi.*
4. To describe recently completed actions with present relevance.
- Example: *I have just finished my homework.*

Past Simple:

- **Form:** *verb + -ed* (for regular verbs) or the second form for irregular verbs.

- **Use:**

1. To describe actions that occurred at a specific time in the past.
- Example: *I visited Paris last year.*
2. To describe completed actions that are no longer connected to the present.
- Example: *She lived here for five years but moved away last year.*
3. To describe past actions in a sequence.
- Example: *He woke up, brushed his teeth, and went to work.*





Key Differences:

- **Present Perfect** focuses on the connection between the past and the present.
- **Past Simple** focuses on a specific point in the past, often with a time reference.

Exercises:

Section 1: Fill in the Blanks

Choose the correct form of the verb: Present Perfect or Past Simple.

1. I _____ (visit) London several times.
2. They _____ (finish) the project last week.
3. She _____ (be) to Japan twice.
4. We _____ (move) to this city in 2010.
5. He _____ (just/finish) reading the book.
6. I _____ (not/see) that movie yet.
7. My grandparents _____ (buy) a new house last year.
8. _____ (you/ever/go) to Australia?

Section 2: Multiple Choice

Choose the correct form of the verb to complete the sentence.

1. I _____ (have lived/lived) in New York for five years.
 - a) have lived
 - b) lived
2. They _____ (met/have met) when they were in high school.
 - a) met
 - b) have met
3. He _____ (has already finished/finished) his homework.
 - a) has already finished
 - b) finished





4. We _____ (went/have gone) to Italy last summer.
- a) went
 - b) have gone
5. She _____ (never has eaten/never ate) sushi before.
- a) never has eaten
 - b) never ate

Section 3: Rewrite the Sentences

Rewrite the following sentences using the correct tense, Present Perfect or Past Simple.

1. I didn't meet him before.
2. She just arrived home.
3. We were married in 2015.
4. They finished the meeting a minute ago.
5. Have you ever visited Spain?

Section 4: Correct the Mistakes

Find and correct the mistakes in the following sentences.

1. I have finished my homework last night.
2. We have went to the museum yesterday.
3. They lived here for three years, but they have moved last week.
4. She didn't have visited London before.
5. I have already saw that movie.





Section 5: Match the Sentences to the Explanation

Match each sentence to the appropriate explanation: experience, recent action, past action with no present connection, or past action with present relevance.

1. I have lost my keys.
2. She visited Mexico in 2012.
3. We have known each other for ten years.
4. They just left the office.
5. I have never tried ice skating.

Section 6: Complete the Dialogue

Complete the conversation using the Present Perfect or Past Simple.

A: _____ (you/see) the new movie yet?

B: Yes, I _____ (see) it last week.

A: What did you think of it?

B: It _____ (be) great! I _____ (never/enjoy) a movie that much before.

A: I _____ (not/go) to the cinema for ages!

B: Really? Why not?

A: I _____ (be) so busy with work lately.





Answers:

Section 1:

1. I **have visited** London several times.
2. They **finished** the project last week.
3. She **has been** to Japan twice.
4. We **moved** to this city in 2010.
5. He **has just finished** reading the book.
6. I **have not seen** that movie yet.
7. My grandparents **bought** a new house last year.
8. **Have** you **ever gone** to Australia?

Section 2:

1. a) **have lived**
2. a) **met**
3. a) **has already finished**
4. a) **went**
5. b) **never ate**

Section 3:

1. I **haven't met** him before.
2. She **has just arrived** home.
3. We **were married** in 2015.
4. They **finished** the meeting a minute ago.
5. **Have you ever visited** Spain?





Section 4:

1. I **finished** my homework last night.
2. We **went** to the museum yesterday.
3. They **lived** here for three years, but they **moved** last week.
4. She **hasn't visited** London before.
5. I **have already seen** that movie.

Section 5:

1. I have lost my keys. – **Past action with present relevance**
2. She visited Mexico in 2012. – **Past action with no present connection**
3. We have known each other for ten years. – **Experience**
4. They just left the office. – **Recent action**
5. I have never tried ice skating. – **Experience**

Section 6:

A: **Have you seen** the new movie yet?

B: Yes, I **saw** it last week.

A: What did you think of it?

B: It **was** great! I **have never enjoyed** a movie that much before.

A: I **haven't gone** to the cinema for ages!

B: Really? Why not?

A: I **have been** so busy with work lately.

