



Part 1: Present Perfect Tense or Past Simple Tense?

Exercise 1 - Look at these sentences. Some of them use the simple past tense and some of them use the present perfect tense. Can you tell the difference?

Write P to show which sentences are written in the simple past tense.

Write PP to show which sentences are written in the present perfect tense.

e.g. I have caught a big fish.

I caught a big fish.

1. I have looked in the cupboard.
2. I have been to Paris twice.
3. I went to New York on holiday.
4. I have never been ice-skating.
5. I called the dog and he came.
6. I made dinner for my mum and dad.
7. I have always suffered from hay fever.
8. I ran to the shops after school.



Part 2: Fill in the blanks

Exercise 2 – Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in either the simple past tense, or the present perfect tense. The first question has been done for you.

1. The doctor _____ (train) at medical school for many years.
2. How far _____ you _____ (travel) to get here?
3. I first _____ (fly) on a plane when I was 5 years old.
4. He _____ (find) a shortcut to get to the beach.
5. People _____ (speak) very highly of the headteacher.
6. The dogs _____ (bark) constantly for the last hour.
7. _____ you _____ (hear) the band's latest album?
8. I _____ never _____ (see) a real elephant before.
9. Sarah _____ (go) to the United States as a baby.
10. My uncle _____ (keep) a photograph of my grandmother on his wall.

Exercise 3 - Fill in the missing blanks with the correct future tense using the answers from the box below.

improve	be	go	go	give
speak	play	predict	develop	sing

1. Last night, I _____ to sleep at 10pm.
2. Technology _____ steadily over the years.
3. I _____ to the dentists every day since last week.
4. Earlier, he _____ to his mum and she _____ him permission to go to the concert.
5. The weather _____ steadily since the weekend.
6. Today, the doctors _____ that your mother will make a speedy recovery.
7. How long _____ you _____ the piano?
8. I _____ in a choir when I _____ at school.



Part 3: Passages

Exercise 4 - Read this passage about Tara the travel agent and fill in the blanks. You will need to decide carefully whether to use the present perfect tense or the simple past tense.

Last week, Tara applied for a passport so that she can go on a holiday that she 1) _____ (dream) about for many years. Tara 2) _____ (work) as a travel agent for the last 10 years so she 3) _____ (be) too busy planning other people's holidays to go on any trips of her own.

After applying for her passport, Tara 4) _____ (book) her plane tickets and her hotel room. She had enough money to pay for everything in advance because she 5) _____ (save) her wages for years.

For the last few years, Tara 6) _____ (spend) a long time dreaming about this holiday so she 7) _____ (take) great care to plan the perfect holiday. For the last ten years, she 8) _____ (watch) other people go off on holiday while she 9) _____ (stay) at home!

When she was a child, Tara 10) _____ (go) to lots of different countries with her parents and she always 11) _____ (have) a wonderful time. However, since growing up, Tara 12) _____ (stop) going on holidays. This will be her first trip for many years. She does not leave for another 3 weeks but she is so excited that she 13) _____ (pack) her suitcase already!



Exercise 5 - Read this passage about Ryan and fill in the blanks. You will need to decide carefully whether to use the present perfect tense or the simple past tense.

Ryan 1) _____ (spend) the last three months looking for a new job.

He 2) _____ (be) a PE teacher for the last 5 years and he 3)

_____ (decide) that it is time for a change. When he was younger,

Ryan 4) _____ (play) professional football and 5)

_____ (coach) a local team. He 6) _____

(work) in sport and fitness for his whole life but now he is looking for a job that will be a bit

less exhausting! Six months ago, Ryan 7) _____ (injure) his knee

while teaching his students to play hockey and it 8) _____ never

_____ (recover). As a result, he needs to find a less active career.

Before playing professional football, Ryan 9) _____ (study) French

and Spanish at college. He 10) _____ always

_____ (love) languages and travel and 11)

_____ (do) very well in his college exams when he was studying.

He is hoping to use these interests in his new career and he 12)

_____ (be) looking for jobs which will allow him to develop his

language skills. So far, he 13) _____ (find) the job search very

difficult but he is hopeful that he will find a new job soon.



Part 4: Proofreading

Exercise 8 – Proofread the following sentences. Correct them, add a missing word, remove an extra word or give a ✓ if they are in the right form.

- 1) I have always like baking cakes. _____
- 2) Yesterday, I have bought some fruit. _____
- 3) I thought about it for a second. _____
- 4) I have bringing some balloons for the party. _____
- 5) I have never liked spiders. _____
- 6) On Thursday, he has spent his pocket money. _____
- 7) I been dancing for the last 5 years. _____
- 8) Sarah has never be good at running. _____
- 9) Françoise liked swimming as a child. _____
- 10) Cars has always been bad for the environment. _____
- 11) Last Tuesday, Jessica has went shopping. _____
- 12) Tom have supported Arsenal all his life. _____



Exercise 9 – Look at these sentences. Give a ✓ if they are correct, or re-write the sentence correctly below.

1) I have always enjoyed dancing.

2) I played football since I was 5.

3) Earlier, I have tidied my bedroom.

4) He has not finished his work.

5) In the morning, she walked the dog.

6) After school, I have watched television.

7) I already spent my pocket money.

8) I walked to the shops to buy a newspaper.

✓
