



Name: _____

Date: _____

Present Perfect vs Past Perfect: Exercises

Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb – do we use present perfect or past perfect?

1. I _____ (not drink) coca-cola for two months, but then I bought some.
2. He _____ (go) to bed so we have to be quiet.
3. I _____ (get) the same coat as that lady!
4. Michelle _____ (not see) the cat in the road, and had to swerve to miss it.
5. She _____ (leave) by the time I woke up.
6. After they _____ (finish) all the cake, they moved on to the coffee.
7. We _____ (do) the washing-up, so Mum will be happy.
8. He knows what happens in the book because he _____ (read) it.
9. I _____ (see) the news just now!
10. Mum _____ (send) you a letter for your birthday.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb – do we use present perfect or past perfect?

1. When I arrived home, I found that Gary _____ (prepare) a delicious soup.
2. Since I began writing, I _____ (publish) articles in several leading magazines and journals. However, I _____ (never speak) on television before last week.
3. I heard a song yesterday that I _____ (not hear) since high school. It _____ (bring) back some great memories!
4. Yesterday I saw an old friend – we _____ (not see) each other for years and both of us _____ (change) a lot!
5. Since January I _____ (gain) so much weight and feel much better now.
6. She _____ (visit) so many beautiful places since coming home, that she _____ (not see) before.
7. Seif _____ (watch) a lot of films, but he _____ (never hear) of this one until yesterday.
8. I _____ (not realise) how bad smoking was before I saw a warning advert. Now I _____ (stop) smoking.
9. The cat _____ (slept) all day.
10. Before leaving the house, he made sure that he _____ (remember) his umbrella.

Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb – do we use present perfect or past perfect?

This time last year, Angus was sad. He (1) _____ (teach) himself how to code websites, but he (2) _____ (not receive) very much work. The previous month, his friends (3) _____ (tell) him that he should abandon his dreams and get a proper job, and he (4) _____ (feel) like a failure. But then, after many more months of hard work, he had a great idea for a company. Since then, he (5) _____ (develop) a great product, he (6) _____ (make) loads of money, and his friends (7) _____ (stop) telling him what to do! If he (8) _____ (never take) the risk, he would not be where he is today!

Exercise 4

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb – do we use present perfect or past perfect?

Sue and John sat down in the cinema. Sue (1) _____ (never hear) of the film they were about to see, but she (2) _____ (read) that the director and the cast were very talented. John (3) _____ (mention) the idea of going to the cinema only a few hours earlier. Now, sitting in the cinema, there seemed to be a problem.

“We (4) _____ (be) here for ages, and the film (5) _____ (not start) yet!” Do you think there is a problem?”, she said to John.

“I’m not sure”, said John. “I (6) _____ (never know) this cinema to run late, but recently there (7) _____ (be) strikes. Perhaps that is what is happening.

By the time the film (8) _____ (start), Sue and John (9) _____ (fall) asleep.

Exercise 5

Some of the following sentences are incorrect. Write the correct word underneath the sentence.

1. James has lived in Paris for 3 years before he could speak French fluently.
2. I had been doing yoga for ages now.
3. The locals were amazed because they had never seen a horse before.
4. He won't be able to pay because he has forgotten his bank card
5. Had you seen the new film by JK Rowling?
6. They have eaten a lot of Italian food by the time the holiday ended.
7. In all her years of knowing him, she had never seen him so angry before.
8. I never leave the table before others had finished.
9. It is already midday and I haven't eaten breakfast yet.
10. Sarah had climbed Mount Everest – she is such an adventurous person!

Exercise 6

Some of the following sentences are incorrect. Write the correct word underneath the sentence.

1. I have seen many pictures of the Eiffel Tower before I finally saw it last summer.
2. By the time we finally stopped him, the cat has eaten all the food.
3. Before my trip to China last year, I had never visited Asia.
4. I had broken my leg. I can't cycle.
5. I'm a singer. I've recorded 2 albums and several singles.
6. By the time I called, they had already run out of the dress I wanted.
7. I'm ready to go now. I had finished my homework.
8. My grandmother was furious when she found out that we have eaten all the turkey.
9. You're doing well. How many exercises had you completed so far?
10. This is Maria's first job – she had never worked before.