

Present Perfect or Past Simple



Name:

Date:



Present perfect or past simple?

The simple past and the present perfect both refer to past actions, but are not interchangeable in English grammar.

The simple past is used with a specific time marker for actions that started and finished in the past.

The present perfect is used without a time marker for actions that began in the past, but still have a connection to the present.

When comparing the simple past and the present perfect, there are two key differences:

Key difference 1:

the simple past refers to a specific action and often tells us when it happened

the present perfect does not tell us when an action happened, only that it did

Examples:

I went to Norway in 2014. (simple past)

I've visited Norway several times. (present perfect)

Key difference 2:

present perfect actions happened in the past, but are connected to the present

simple past actions started and finished in the past

Examples:

Chris can't come on the trip, he has broken his leg. (present perfect)

I broke my leg when I was fifteen. (simple past)

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Drag the correct verb form into the right panel.

My family and I _____ the zoo last weekend.

She _____ English for two years.

Yesterday, I _____ pizza for dinner.

He _____ basketball with his friends this morning.

She _____ three books this month.

I _____ a movie with my sister last night.

They _____ their room already.

My mom _____ a delicious meal for us last night.

has, cooked, watched, studied, have, played, visited, read, cleaned, ate, has

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Choose the correct verb form.

1. Last night, I _ a movie with my family.

☐ watch ☐ watched

2. My sister _ all the cookies.

☐ has eaten ☐ ate

3. The teacher _ the lesson very well.

☐ explain ☐ explained

4. I _ my grandparents last week.

☐ visited ☐ visit

5. He _ soccer for five years.

☐ played ☐ has played

6. Yesterday, my brother _ a new bike.

☐ bought ☐ buy

7. We _ the house on Saturday.

☐ cleaned ☐ clean

8. My friend _ five books this month.

☐ has read ☐ read

Write the present perfect or the simple past form into the panels.

Last night, I _____ (to watch) a movie with my family.

My brother _____ (to eat) breakfast already this morning.

She _____ (to visit) her grandparents last weekend.

My friends and I _____ (to play) soccer in the park yesterday.

He _____ (to read) three books this month.

My mom _____ (to cook) dinner for us last night.

I _____ (to study) for my math test all week.

Yesterday, my dad _____ (to fix) the broken chair in the living room.

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Bring the words into the right order.

cleaned, my, room, Yesterday, I

sit, dog, to, My, how, has, learned

weekend, the, visited, We, museum, last

has, mom, dinner, made, My, already

shoes, month, I, new, last, bought

with, He, just, football, played, us

tried, sushi, I, before, have

watched, movie, a, night, They, last