Present Perfect vs Past Simple Worksheet

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NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
Past simple: finished time, details	I went to Rome in 2019.
Present perfect: experience, no time given	I've been to Rome.
Present perfect: period up to now	I've worked here since May.
Signals: yesterday, ago, last..., in 2019 / ever, never, yet, so far, this week	Have you seen him this week? I saw him yesterday.

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
I have seen him yesterday.	I saw him yesterday.
When have you arrived?	When did you arrive?
I know her for ten years.	I've known her for ten years.

1. Complete

Present perfect or past simple? Complete the sentences.

1. I _____ (visit) Lisbon in 2022.
2. _____ you ever _____ (try) Thai food?
3. She _____ (start) her new job last Monday.
4. We _____ (live) here since 2018.
5. When _____ you _____ (arrive)?
6. I _____ (not / see) him this week.
7. They _____ (get) married two years ago.
8. He _____ (write) three books so far.
9. _____ you _____ (watch) the match last night?
10. I _____ (lose) my phone. Can you call it?

2. Choose

Complete the dialogue. Circle the correct option.

1. A: (Have you ever been / Did you ever go) to Mexico?
2. B: Yes, I (have / did).
3. A: When (have you gone / did you go)?
4. B: I (went / have gone) in 2021.
5. A: (Did you like / Have you liked) it?
6. B: I loved it. I (have been / went) back twice since then.
7. A: I (never went / have never been) there.
8. B: You should go. I (have just booked / just booked) my next trip!

3. Correct the mistakes

Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. I have seen him yesterday.

2. Did you ever eat sushi?

3. She has gone to London last year.

4. I live here since 2015.

5. When have you finished university?

6. We didn't see this film yet.

Writing

Write a short paragraph about a hobby or skill: say how long you have done it, when and how you started, and what you have achieved so far.

Speaking

- Have you ever lived in another city or country? When was it and what was it like?
- What is the best thing you have done this year? When did you do it?
- Have you ever met someone famous? Where did you meet them?
- How many jobs have you had? Which one did you like most?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 visited · 2 Have … tried · 3 started · 4 have lived · 5 did … arrive · 6 haven't seen · 7 got · 8 has written · 9 Did … watch · 10 have lost / 've lost

2. Choose: 1 Have you ever been · 2 have · 3 did you go · 4 went · 5 Did you like · 6 have been · 7 have never been · 8 have just booked

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 I saw him yesterday. · 2 Have you ever eaten sushi? · 3 She went to London last year. · 4 I have lived here since 2015. · 5 When did you finish university? · 6 We haven't seen this film yet.

Writing, model answer: I have played the guitar for eight years. I started when I was fifteen: my uncle gave me his old guitar and showed me three chords. At first I practised every day after school. Since then I have played in two bands and I have written about twenty songs. Last year I played at a friend's wedding, which was a great experience.