

# Unit 18: Present Perfect Tense vs. Past Tense

## THE PROBLEMS

*She has lived there last year.*  
*They didn't call yet.*

**Exercise 1:** \_\_\_1) Circle the verbs (auxiliary verbs, main verbs and past participles).  
\_\_\_2) Write *past* if the verb is in the past tense and *pres perf* if the verb is in the present perfect tense.

1. I (had) a problem with my computer yesterday. *past*
2. We (have) already (seen) that movie. *pres perf*
3. Sami has never hiked to the top of a mountain. \_\_\_\_\_
4. They were in the basement during the storm. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Lee has been late every day since Monday. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Many people cried at the end of the movie. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Ann didn't wait for me at the station. \_\_\_\_\_
8. I haven't begun my homework yet. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:** Look at the sentences and complete the explanations.

1. They finished their homework very late last night.

**Explanation:** We use \_\_\_\_\_ because the sentence is in the past tense.

- a) an auxiliary and past participle                      b) just a main verb

2. He hasn't slept at all for two nights.

**Explanation:** We use \_\_\_\_\_ because the sentence is in the present perfect tense.

- a) an auxiliary and past participle                      b) just a main verb

3. The passengers have already started to board the plane.

**Explanation:** We use \_\_\_\_\_ because the sentence is in the present perfect tense.

- a) an auxiliary and main verb                              b) an auxiliary and past participle

4. My boss didn't like my excuse.

**Explanation:** We use \_\_\_\_\_ because the sentence is in the past tense.

- a) an auxiliary and main verb      b) an auxiliary verb and past participle

5. The bank opens at 9 a.m. every day except weekends.

**Explanation:** The verb (*opens*) is in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense.

- a) present      b) present perfect      c) past

6. Antonio's father has never forgotten his birthday.

**Explanation:** The verb (*has forgotten*) is in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense.

- a) present      b) present perfect      c) past

7. Sara ate dinner at 6 p.m. last night.

**Explanation:** The verb (*ate*) is in the \_\_\_\_\_ tense.

- a) present      b) present perfect      c) past

**Exercise 3:** Write the verb tense for each verb. Use *present*, *present perfect*, and *past*.

present 1. calls

past 2. called

pres perf 3. has called

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. lived

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. have lived

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. live

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. has built

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. builds

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. built

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. drinks

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. drank

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. has drunk

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. don't make

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. didn't make

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. haven't made

**Exercise 4:** Fill in the chart with the correct forms of the verbs.

<b>Base Form</b>	<b>Present Tense</b>	<b>Past Tense</b>	<b>Present Perfect Tense</b>
clean	He <u>cleans</u>	He <u>cleaned</u>	He <u>has cleaned</u>
play	He _____	He _____	He _____
play	We _____	We _____	We _____
sit	I _____	I _____	I _____
teach	You _____	You _____	You _____
buy	She doesn't ____	She didn't ____	She hasn't _____
live	They _____	They _____	They _____
write	I don't _____	I didn't _____	I haven't _____
eat	He _____	He _____	He _____
give	We _____	We _____	We _____
have	You _____	You _____	You _____
travel	They _____	They _____	They _____
take	She doesn't ____	She didn't ____	She hadn't _____

**Exercise 5:** Fill in the blanks with verbs from the chart in Exercise 4 and explain why you chose them.

1. Yesterday, I cleaned my messy bedroom.

Reason: We use simple past with "yesterday."

2. Mari has sat at her computer since 8 o'clock.

Reason: We use present perfect with "since" and a time expression.

3. We didn't write a letter to the newspaper.

Reason: We use the base form after "didn't."

4. Last year, they \_\_\_\_\_ around the world.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

5. Jim doesn't have much money, so he \_\_\_\_\_  
a car yet.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

6. Now, Maria \_\_\_\_\_ in the suburbs, but she works in the city.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Mr. Todd and Ms. Smith \_\_\_\_\_ math at this university for eight years.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

8. The students \_\_\_\_\_ a break during the test last Friday.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

9. In France in 1999, Patti \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of bread and cheese.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

10. My boss \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ me a present on my birthday.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Ken \_\_\_\_\_ video games for several hours.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

12. I didn't finish my report because I \_\_\_\_\_ a problem with my computer.

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 6:** Choose the correct answers.

1. Present perfect tense has \_\_\_\_\_.

a) a main verb only                      b) an auxiliary and past participle

2. In present perfect tense, the past participle is \_\_\_\_\_ the past tense form.

a) always the same form as    b) sometimes a different form from

**Exercise 7:** Look at the sentences. Choose the correct explanation for each.

**1. We had a good time at Jim's party last weekend.**

- a) This is correct. It has a main verb (*had*) for past tense.
- b) This is incorrect. With the words *last weekend*, we need an auxiliary verb (*has*) and a past participle (*had*).

**2. Every summer, they take a trip to the mountains for their vacation.**

- a) This is correct. It has a main verb (*take*) in the present tense.
- b) This is incorrect. With the expression, *Every summer*, we need an auxiliary verb (*have*) and a main verb (*taken*).

**3. Tom never saw a zebra.**

- a) This is correct. It has a main verb (*saw*) for past tense.
- b) This is incorrect. With the word *never*, we need an auxiliary verb (*has*) and past participle (*seen*).

**4. I haven't spoke to my boss about my pay raise yet.**

- a) This is correct. With the word *yet*, we need an auxiliary verb (*haven't*) and a main verb (*spoke*).
- b) This is incorrect. With the word *yet*, we need an auxiliary verb (*haven't*) and past participle. However, we need to change *spoke* to *spoken* because *spoken* is the past participle.

**5. The waiters clean the tables at the end of the day.**

- a) This is correct. It has a main verb (*clean*).
- b) This is incorrect. We need an auxiliary verb (*have*) and a past participle (*cleaned*).
- c) This is incorrect. With the subject *waiters*, the main verb should be *cleans*.

**6. She has already wrote her pen pal 18 letters.**

- a) This is correct. With the word *already*, we need an auxiliary verb (*has*) and a main verb (*wrote*).
- b) This is incorrect. With the subject *she* and time expression *already*, we need an auxiliary (*has*) and a main verb (*writes*).
- c) This is incorrect. *Wrote* is the past tense. With the auxiliary *has*, we need the past participle (*written*).

**Exercise 8:** Write the sentences that your teacher reads. Use the words in the box.  
The number with each word is the sentence number that the word is in.

1 Jack	1 chores	2 suburb
3 apartment	4 vacation	5 medicine

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 9:** \_\_\_1) Write a paragraph with 5 sentences or more about one of the topics.  
\_\_\_2) Circle the verbs in your paragraph.

**Topic Choices:** \_\_\_1) Write about a problem that you had when you were younger.  
\_\_\_2) Write about a problem that someone else (for example, your brother, friend, or neighbor) had when he or she was younger.