

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)
This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.
Has he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.
Did he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.
He **lost** his key (*past simple*)
but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see [Unit 7](#)).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
(*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)







C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see [Unit 7](#)). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

Exercises

13.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1</p>  <p>I can't get in. I <u>ve lost</u> (lose) my key.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>HELEN</p> <p>Helen (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Are you OK?</p> <p>Yes, I (have) a headache, but I'm fine now.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p>

13.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- Did you hear about Sue? She's given up her job.
- My mother has grown up in Italy.
- How many poems has William Shakespeare written?
- Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- Who has invented paper?
- Where have you been born?
- Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

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13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- I studied German at school, but most of it now. (I / forget)
- The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- What do you think of my English? Do you think? (it / improve)
- A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
- for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- Where's my bike? outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- Quick! We need to call an ambulance. an accident. (there / be)
- 10 A: Have you heard about Ben? his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How? (that / happen)
A: off a ladder. (he / fall)