UNIT 14

Present perfect and past (2) (**I have done** and **I did**)

A

Do *not* use the present perfect (**I have done**) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, **yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1985 / when I was a child**). Use a *past* tense:

- The weather **was** nice **yesterday**. (*not* 'has been nice')
- They **arrived ten minutes ago**. (*not* 'have arrived')
- I **ate** a lot of sweets **when I was a child**. (*not* 'have eaten')
- A: **Did** you **see** the news on television **last night**? (*not* 'Have you seen')
  B: No, I **went** to bed early. (*not* 'have gone')

Use a past tense to ask **When...?** or **What time...?**:

- **When did** they **arrive**? (*not* 'have they arrived')
- **What time did** you **finish** work?

Compare:

Present perfect	*Past simple*
• Tom **has lost** his key. He can't get into the house.	• Tom **lost** his key **yesterday**. He couldn't get into the house.
Here, we are not thinking of the past action. We are thinking of the present result of the action: Tom doesn't have his key *now*.	Here, we are thinking of the action in the past. We don't know from this sentence whether Tom has his key now.

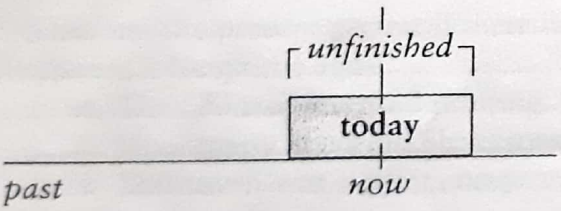
B

Compare present perfect and past:

Present perfect (**have done**)

- I've **done** a lot of work **today**.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *from the past until now*. For example, **today, this week, since 1985**.



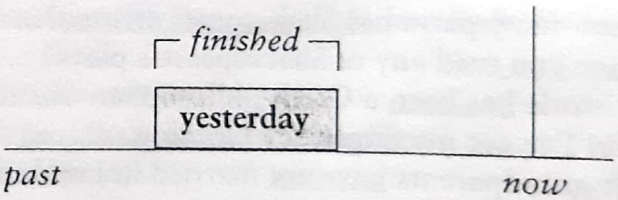
- It **hasn't rained** this week.
- **Have** you **seen** Ann this morning? (it is still morning)
- **Have** you **seen** Ann recently?
- I don't know where Ann is. I **haven't seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've **been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Ian **lives** in London. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- I **have never played** golf. (in my life)

The present perfect always has a connection with *now*. See Units 7–12.

Past simple (**did**)

- I **did** a lot of work **yesterday**.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example, **yesterday, last week, from 1985 to 1991**.



- It **didn't rain** last week.
- **Did** you **see** Ann this morning? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- **Did** you **see** Ann **on Sunday**?
- A: **Was** Ann at the party **on Sunday**?
  B: I don't think so. I **didn't see** her.
- We **waited** (*or* **were waiting**) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Ian **lived** in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London.
- I **didn't play** golf when I was on holiday **last summer**.

The past simple tells us only about the past. See Units 5–6.

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EXERCISES

1 *Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.*

1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere. ...RIGHT...
2 Have you seen the news on television last night? ...WRONG: Did you see...
3 I've bought a new car. Do you want to see it? .....
4 I've bought a new car last week. .....
5 Where have you been yesterday evening? .....
6 Jenny has left school in 1991. .....
7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him? .....
8 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten anything today. .....
9 Diane hasn't been at work yesterday. .....
10 When has this book been published? .....

2 *Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.*

1 (it / not / rain / this week) ...It hasn't rained this week...
2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather .....
3 (it / cold / last week) It .....
4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I .....
5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today) .....
6 (Ann / earn / a lot of money / this year) .....
7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year) .....
8 (you / have / a holiday recently?) .....

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

1 I don't know where Amy is. ...Have you seen... (you/see) her?
2 When I ..... (get) home last night, I ..... (be) very tired and I ..... (go) straight to bed.
3 Your car looks very clean. ..... (you/wash) it?
4 George ..... (not/be) very well last week.
5 Mr Clark ..... (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then he gave it up.
6 Molly lives in Dublin. She ..... (live) there all her life.
7 '..... (you/go) to the cinema last night?' 'Yes, but it ..... (be) a mistake. The film ..... (be) awful.'
8 My grandfather ..... (die) 30 years ago. I ..... (never/meet) him.
9 I don't know Carol's husband. I ..... (never/meet/him).
10 A: Is your father at home? B: No, I'm afraid he ..... (go) out.
A: When exactly ..... (he/go) out? B: About ten minutes ago.
11 A: Where do you live? B: In Boston.
A: How long ..... (you/live) there? B: Five years.
A: Where ..... (you/live) before that? B: In Chicago.
A: And how long ..... (you/live) in Chicago? B: Two years.

4 *Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.*

1 (something you haven't done today) ...I haven't eaten any fruit today...
2 (something you haven't done today) .....
3 (something you didn't do yesterday) .....
4 (something you did yesterday evening) .....
5 (something you haven't done recently) .....
6 (something you've done a lot recently)

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