



Present Perfect vs. Past Perfect

Present Perfect Tense

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The Present Perfect Tense describes actions that happened at an unspecified time before now, actions that started in the past and continue, or past experiences.




I have lived in this city for five years.



Time Words

Ever	Never	Just
Already	Yet	Recently

Formula

	Structure Subject + has/have + past participle Example She has finished her homework.
	Structure Subject + has/have + not + past participle Example They have not seen this movie.
	Structure Has/Have + subject + past participle? Example Have you visited London?

Usage and Examples

Usage	Example
Unspecified Past Actions	She has visited Paris.
Past Actions with Present Result	I have lost my keys.
Actions Continuing Until Now	They have lived here for five years.
Life Experiences	He has never tried sushi.

Present Perfect (Have/Has + Past Participle)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about actions that happened at an **unspecified time in the past** or started in the past and **continue into the present**.

Formula: Subject + **have/has** + past participle

Examples:

- I **have visited** Spain. (At some time in my life, but we don't say exactly when.)
- She **has lived** here for five years. (Started in the past and continues now.)
- They **have just finished** their homework. (Recently completed action.)

Some Common Keywords: Just, already, yet, ever, never, for, since,

- I **have just finished** my work
- She **still hasn't** called me back
- We **have raised** 50K **so far**.
- He **hasn't finished** his homework **yet**
- She **has already** left.

Past Perfect Tense



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The Past Perfect Tense describes an action that happened before another past action or a specific time in the past.

I had eaten breakfast before they arrived.



Time Words

Before	By the time	Already
After	Never	Just

Formula

+	Structure Subject + had + past participle
	Example She had left before I woke up.
-	Structure Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle
	Example They had not finished their work.
?	Structure Had + subject + past participle?
	Example Had you seen that movie before?

Usage and Examples

Usage	Example
Completed action before another past action	She had finished her homework before dinner.
Completed action before a specific past time	By 10 AM, they had left the house.
Reported speech	He said he had never seen that movie before.
Unreal past conditions (third conditional)	If you had studied, you would have passed.

Past Perfect (Had + Past Participle)

We use the *past perfect* to talk about an action that happened **before another action in the past**.

Formula: Subject + **had** + past participle

Examples:

- Before she arrived, I **had finished** my homework.
- They **had already eaten** when we got to the restaurant.
- He **had never seen** snow before last year.

Some Common Keywords: Before, after, already, just, never, by the time

- Had you **met** him **yet** before the party?
- It was the best pizza I **had ever eaten**.
- I **had never seen** such a beautiful sunset before that day.
- By that point, they **had received** three complaints **so far**.

LIV TOP 50 Irregular verbs

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
be	was/were	been
bet	bet	bet
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
buy	bought	bought
come	came	come
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
do	did	done
drink	drank	drunk
eat	ate	eaten
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
forget	forgot	forgotten
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
leave	left	left
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
set	set	set
show	showed	shown
shut	shut	shut
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
stand	stood	stood
take	took	taken
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
understand	understood	understood
upset	upset	upset

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Exercise: Fill in the blanks

A: Present Perfect (have/has + past participle)

1. She _____ (never/be) to Japan.
2. I _____ (already/finish) my homework.
3. They _____ (not/see) this movie before.
4. We _____ (live) here for 10 years.
5. He _____ (just/eat) lunch.

B: Past Perfect (had + past participle)

1. When I arrived, they _____ (already/start) the meeting.
2. She _____ (never/try) sushi before last night.

3. He _____ (finish) his work before his boss checked it.
4. We _____ (leave) the house before the storm began.
5. By the time I got to the station, the train _____ (depart).

C: Use the *present perfect (have/has + past participle)* or *past perfect (had + past participle)* form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. She has written _____ (write) three books so far.
2. He was tired because he had run _____ (run) a marathon earlier that day.
3. When I got home, I realized I had forgotten _____ (forget) my keys at the office.
4. He has broken _____ (break) his leg, so he can't play football.
5. Before last year, I hadn't been _____ (not be) to Paris.