

SPEAKING

Describing situations in the past

PRESENT PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

Have you ever bought any electronic device online?

Answer:

*Actually, I **have purchased** / **purchased** many electronic items online.*

*In fact, last week I **bought** / **have bought** a new laptop from an online store, and I'm quite satisfied with it.*

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PRESENT PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

Have you ever tried exotic food?

Answer:

*To be honest, I **have always been** / **was** quite reluctant to try out unfamiliar food. However, my brother loves to explore. In fact, last month he **told** / **has told me** he enjoyed eating frog legs in France.*

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PRESENT PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

Choose the correct statements regarding Present Perfect vs Past Simple

- A. We use Past Simple to talk about events which happened in the past, and when we know the exact or specific details of the time of the event (such as *yesterday, the previous winter, last year, five hours ago* and so on). In other words, the event is already over and finished.
- B. When we use *already, ever, never, recently* and *not long ago*, we use Past Simple.
- C. We use Present Perfect when something happened at an unspecified time and which happened recently, or when we are more interested in the result or consequences.
- D. When you talk about experience you usually use Past Simple.

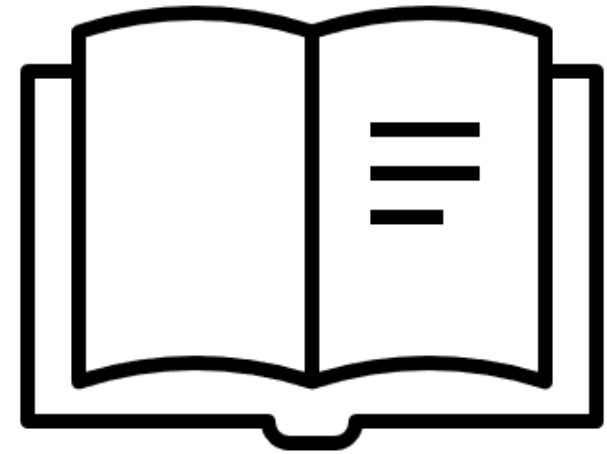
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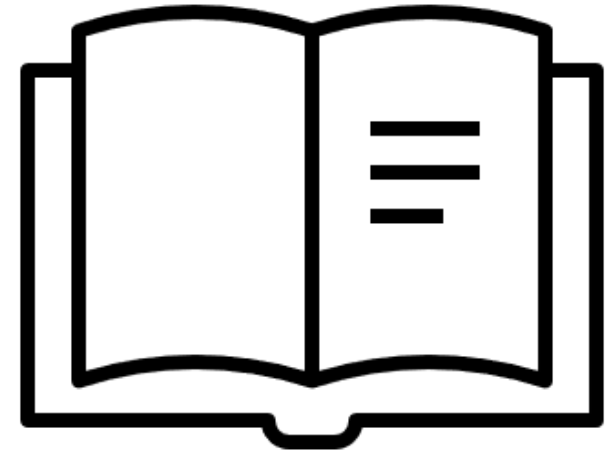
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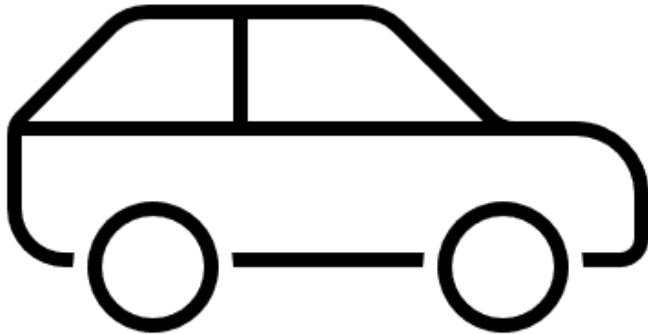
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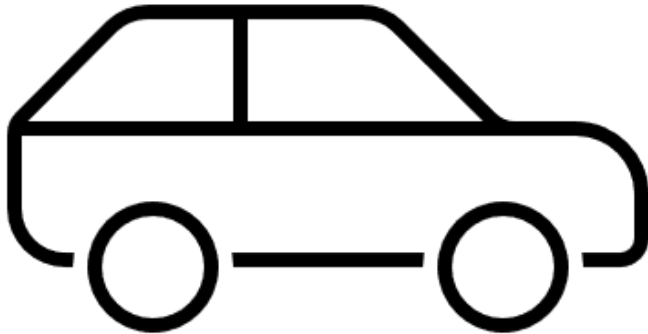
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- A. Do you know John bought a new car?
- B. Do you know John has bought a new car?



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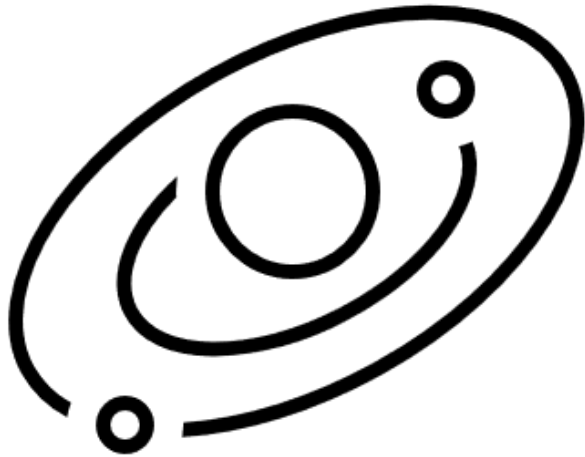
- A. In my life, I have been to many places, but I haven't seen such a wonderful place in my life.
- B. In my life I went to many places, but I didn't see such a wonderful place in my life.



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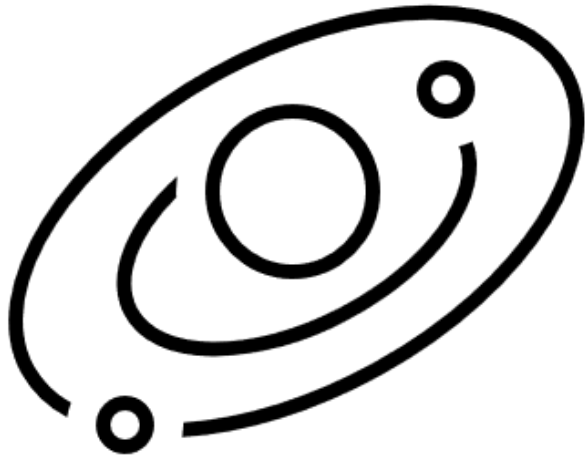
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CHOOSE THE SENTENCE WHICH IS
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REASONS FOR YOUR CHOICES.

- A. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with professor John, who is well known for quantum physics.
- B. Recently, I've had the opportunity to meet with professor John, who is well known for quantum physics.



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- A. Recently, I had the opportunity to meet with professor John, who is well known for quantum physics.
- B. Recently, I've had the opportunity to meet with professor John, who is well known for quantum physics.

PRACTICE

ANSWER THE
QUESTIONS USING
PRESENT
PERFECT AND
PAST SIMPLE
CORRECTLY

1. Have you ever read an autobiography?
2. Have you ever baked a cake on your own?
3. Have you been to a tropical country?
4. How many jobs have you had in your career and when was the last time you changed your job?
5. Have you ever tried exotic food?
6. Have you ever met with a celebrity?



TRY TO USE PRESENT PERFECT TO IMPRESS THE EXAMINER

Do you buy things online?

Actually, ever since I moved to Saint Petersburg, **I have always bought** clothes and accessories online. I just don't have time to visit shops.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS USING PRESENT PERFECT



Do you read novels?



Do you go to the theatre?



Do you like to cook?









Do you buy things online?

DESCRIBING PAST EVENTS

USED TO / WOULD

	USED TO	WOULD
Action verbs	✓	✓
State verbs	✓	✗

USED TO / WOULD

	USED TO	WOULD
Affirmative		
Negative		
Question		



USED TO / WOULD

- A. I used to live in Saint Petersburg, but I moved to Moscow last year.
- B. I would live in Manchester, but I moved to Moscow last year.



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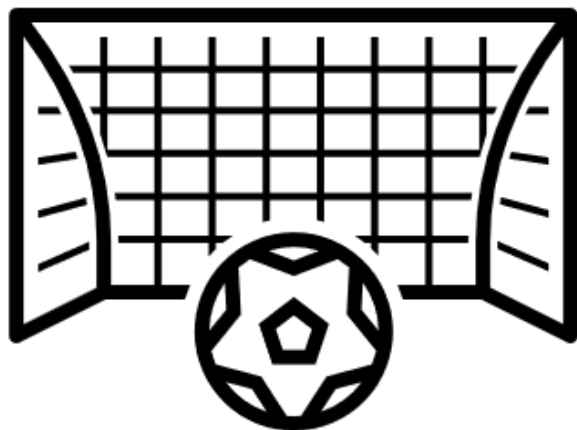
- A. She would hate her job, until she got promoted.
- B. She used to hate her job, until she got promoted.



USED TO / WOULD

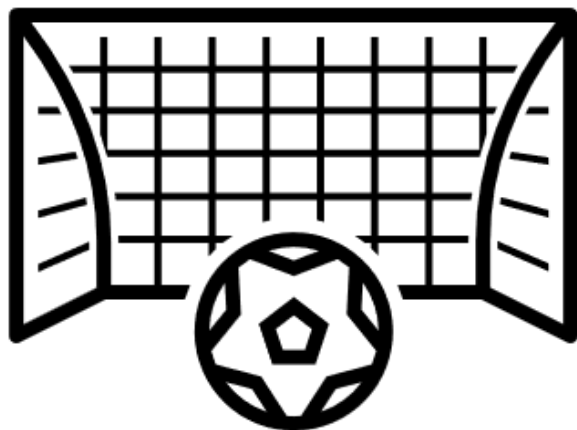
- A. She would hate her job, until she got promoted.
- B. **She used to hate her job, until she got promoted.**





USED TO / WOULD

- A. John would play football every Sunday when he was a teenager.
- B. John used to play football every Sunday when he was a teenager.



USED TO / WOULD

- A. John would play football every Sunday when he was a teenager.
- B. John used to play football every Sunday when he was a teenager.

PRACTICE

**DISCUSS YOUR LIFE IN THE PAST BASED ON THE
QUESTIONS BELOW. YOU SHOULD SPEND NOT LESS
THAN 1 MINUTE FOR EACH QUESTION.**

**Describe your childhood. Tell about
the things you used to enjoy and do
regularly**

*Example: I still remember my grandma
would make apple pie every time we visited
her during the holidays.*

**When you were schooling and at the
university, tell us about the things you
liked and your regular habits that
have changed now**

*Example: When I was at the university,
Russian history used to be my favourite
subject, although now I'm not a big fan of
history in general.*

IDIOMS TO DESCRIBE PAST EXPERIENCE



«ALL ALONG»

- means from the beginning or the entire time:
- *“I knew all along that he would succeed one day.”*



«A THING OF THE PAST»

- If something is a **thing of the past**, it doesn't happen or exist any more:
- *“Dial-up modems are a thing of the past.”*



«BEFORE MY TIME»

- You might describe something as **before your time** if it happened or was popular before you were born, or at least while you were too young to remember it.
- *“The Beatles were a bit before my time.”*



«IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS»

- refers to a time in the past when you remember life being better in some way:
- *“In the good old days children didn’t have smartphones and video games; they played outside together.”*



«SEEN BETTER DAYS»

- Something that has **seen better days** is past its best and showing signs of wear, decay or use:
- “This playground has seen better days; the council should repair or replace it.”



«TO TAKE A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE»

- is to spend time reminiscing about the past, especially about happy memories:
- *“My grandmother loves to take a trip down memory lane and tell me about her childhood.”*



«TO TURN BACK (THE HANDS OF) TIME»

- **To turn back the hands of time** (or just **turn back time**) means to go back to the past in order to do things differently. Of course, we can't really do this so this idiom is mainly used to express regret:
- *"I wish I could turn back the hands of time and study harder for the exams I failed."*

- All along
- A thing of the past
- Before my time
- In the good old days
- To have seen better days
- To take a trip down memory lane
- To turn back (the hands of) time

TASK

- Use four idioms and create your own examples
 1.
 2.
 3.
 4.

PRACTICE

YOU SHOULD SPEAK FOR 2 MINUTES FOR THE QUESTION BELOW

Describe a special occasion in your life

- where it took place
- when it took place
- who was there

and explain your feelings on this occasion.

Describe a piece of advice you recently received.

- when this happened
- who gave you the advice
- what the advice was

and explain how you felt about the advice.

WORK WITH A PARTNER AND ANSWER THE QUESTION BELOW

Describe a journey that didn't go as planned

- where you were going
- how you were travelling
- who you were with
- what went wrong

and explain what you would do differently.