



Past Simple, Present Continuous and Present Perfect



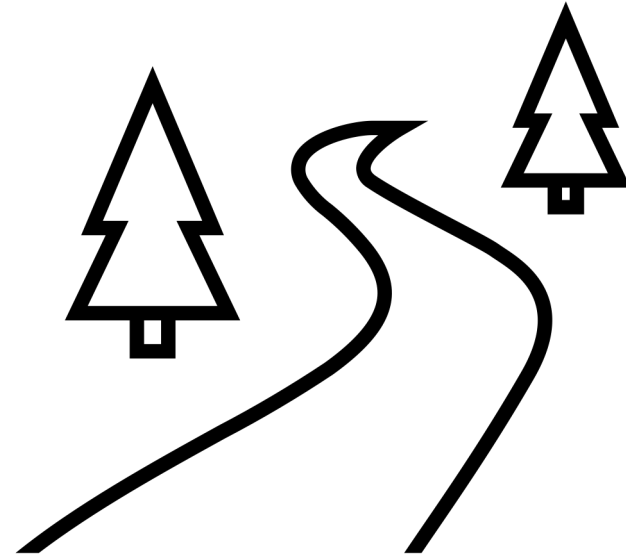
Introduction

Welcome to Live25!

- A new feature of English Online
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- Sit back and enjoy the ride!

Please be on mute

You can keep your cams off



Lead-in



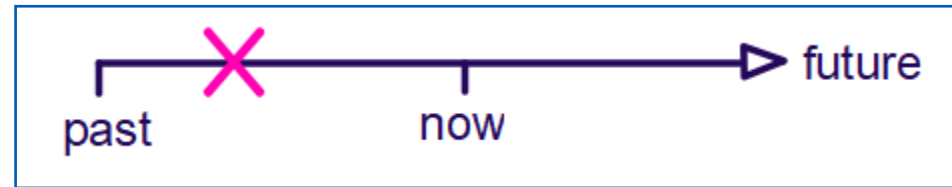
Which of the following statements can you identify with?

1. I didn't travel a lot last year.
2. I've been to more than 20 countries.
3. I'm looking for a holiday destination at the moment.

Meaning, use and form: Past Simple

We use the **Past Simple** for states and actions which happened in the past. We often say **when** the action happened:

- I **started** studying with English Online **last year**.



Affirmative: Subject + verb (regular or irregular)

- Scientists **discovered** new species of blue whale last week.
- **Negative: Subject + didn't (did not) + base verb form**
- I **didn't start** working until I was 21.

Question: (Wh- question +) did + subject + base verb form ?

- **Did you watch** the news yesterday?

Meaning and Use: Present Continuous

We use the **Present Continuous** for

- a. Things in progress now, at the moment of speaking:

The sun is shining.

- b. Temporary actions or situations that are happening 'around now':

I'm reading a very good book at the moment.

- c. Describing a situation which is changing :

A lot of people are working from home.

- d. Expressing actions that are planned:

They're watching a film tomorrow.



Form: Present Continuous

Affirmative: Subject + is/am/are + verb-ing

- We are studying English.

Negative: Subject + is/am/are + not + verb-ing

- She isn't studying French at the moment.

Question: (Wh question +) is/am/are + subject + verb-ing ?

- What are you studying?

Check your understanding

1. Which tense do we use if the action is finished?
- 2, Name one reason why we use the present continuous.

Meaning and Use: Present perfect

We use **the present perfect** to talk about **the past and the present together**. The past action or situation is connected to the present in different ways.

a. The state or action continues from the past to the present.

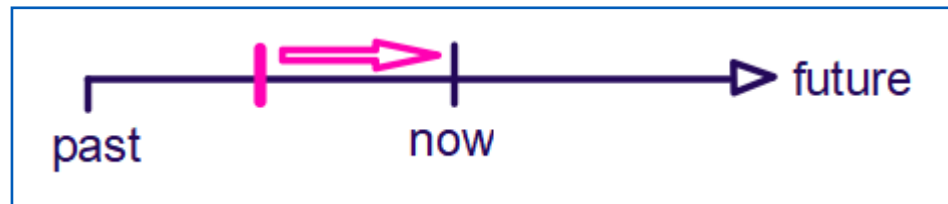
I've known Anna for many years (= I still know her now)

b. The results of the past action are important in the present.

He's lost his wallet (= he doesn't have it now)

c. When we mean 'in my whole life': we do not give a specific time.

I've been to Paris many times (= in my whole life)



Form: Present Perfect Simple

Affirmative: Subject + has/have + past participle

- She's **bought** fresh flowers.

Negative: Subject + has/have + not + past participle

- We **haven't seen** The Lord of the Rings.

Question: (Wh question +) has/have + subject + past participle

- **Have you been** to Mexico?

Time words often found with the Present Perfect:

- *Already, yet* (= before now) use 'yet' in questions and negatives to talk about actions that haven't happened in the past, but think could happen in the future.
- *Ever* (= any time in the past until now) Use in questions

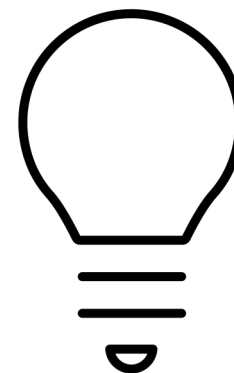
-Have you ever met anyone famous?

Check your understanding

1. Do we use **present perfect** if say when exactly the action happened, e.g. in 2012?
2. Do we use **present perfect** or **past simple** if the action is still relevant now?

Key point: Past Simple, present continuous and present perfect

- Make sure you know when the action happened: if the action is **finished** use the **past simple** and if it's still **relevant in the present** use the **present perfect**.
- **Stative** verbs **cannot** be used in the **present continuous** (e.g. *like, want, believe, seem*)
- When using the **present perfect** do **not use *when*** in questions or ***ago*** in sentences.



Grammar Checkout

Look at this conversation between Rebecca and Siobhan and send your answers in the chat:

R: Hi Siobhan! What 1 _____ you _____ ? **a) did/do** **b) are/doing**

S: I 2 _____ for a nice holiday destination for this year **a)'m looking** **b) looked**

R: 3 _____ you _____ to Egypt? **a) Have/been** **b) Did/ go**

S: Yes, We have. We loved it!

R: I 4 _____ that! When did you go? **a) haven't/know** **b) didn't/know**

S: Mark and I went last Summer.

Grammar Checkout - Answers

Look at this conversation between Rebecca and Siobhan and send your answers in the chat:

R: Hi Siobhan! What are you doing?

S: I 'm looking for a nice holiday destination for this year

R: Have you been to Egypt?

S: Yes, We have. We loved it!

R: I didn't know that! When did you go?

S: Mark and I went last Summer.

Thank you for attending this presentation!

Review the next few slides for lessons linked to this Live25 webinar.



<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/grammar/a1-a2-grammar/past-continuous-and-past-simple>

If you're an IELTS Coach student, now you're ready for...

Speaking

Friends and family: paraphrasing



If you're an English Online student, now you're ready for...

Elementary

Theme: Numbers and dates

Lesson: Important events in my life

Pre-intermediate

Theme: Workplace skills

Lesson: Making arrangements

Intermediate

Theme: All about me

Lesson: Life stories

Upper intermediate

Theme: Business communication

Lesson: Project review

Advanced

Theme: Science, Space and technology

Lesson: Asteroids and meteorites





If you're an English for Work student, now you're ready for...

Elementary

Theme: At work

Lesson: Showing your best

Pre-intermediate

Theme: A new position

Lesson: Describing yourself

Intermediate

Theme: Presentations

Lesson: Working together on projects

Upper intermediate

Theme: Evaluating performance

Lesson: Skills and talents

Advanced

Theme: People and events

Lesson: Environmental and social impact