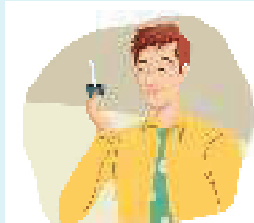


Present perfect and past 1 (**I have done** and **I did**)**A** Study this example situation:

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 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', we don't know whether he has the key now or not. We know only that he lost it at some time in the past.

Compare *present perfect* and *past simple*:

- ☐ 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 away)
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 'Hannah **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:

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. 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 (go) to New York for a holiday, but she's back home in London now.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Are you OK?</p> <p>Yes, I (have) a headache, but it's OK now.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p>

13.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 Did you hear about Sophie? <u>She's given up</u> her job. | <u>OK</u> |
| 2 <u>My mother has grown up</u> in Italy. | <u>My mother grew up</u> |
| 3 How many plays <u>has William Shakespeare written</u> ? | |
| 4 <u>I've forgotten</u> his name. Is it Joe or Jack? | |
| 5 Who <u>has invented</u> paper? | |
| 6 <u>Drugs have become</u> a big problem everywhere. | |
| 7 <u>We've washed</u> the car, but now it's dirty again. | |
| 8 Where <u>have you been born</u> ? | |
| 9 <u>Ellie has gone</u> shopping. She'll be back in about an hour. | |
| 10 Albert Einstein <u>has been</u> the scientist who <u>has developed</u> the theory of relativity. | |

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)
- Are you ready to go? your coffee? (you / finish)
- for a job as a tour 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)
- A: I've found my phone.
B: Oh, good. Where it? (you / find)
A: at the bottom of my bag. (It / be)
- A: Ben won't be able to play tennis for a while. his arm. (He / break)
B: Oh. How? (that / happen)
A: off a ladder. (He / fall)