

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.

1 I can't get in. I <u>'ve lost</u> (lose) my key.	2 The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.
3 I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).	4 Helen (go) to New York for a holiday, but she's back home in London now.
5 Are you OK? Yes, I (have) a headache, but it's OK now.	6 Can you help us? Our car (break) down.

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

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

OK
My mother grew up
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

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)