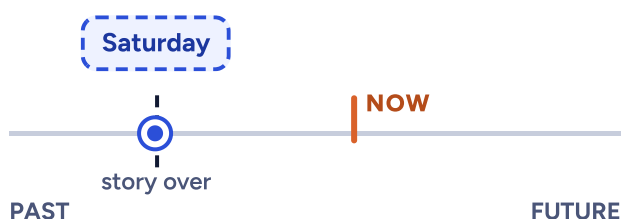


Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Use the **Past Simple** for a finished action at a time you can name: *I lost my keys on Saturday*. Use the **Present Perfect** when the past action matters now and the time isn't the point: *I have lost my keys*.

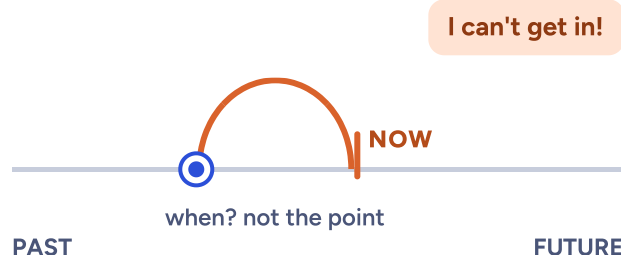
PAST SIMPLE · FINISHED, FIXED TIME

I **lost** my keys on Saturday.



PRESENT PERFECT · PAST ACTION, RESULT NOW

I **have lost** my keys.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- I _____ my homework. Can I go out now?
a) finished b) have finished
- We _____ to Rome in 2019.
a) went b) have been
- _____ sushi?
a) Did you ever eat b) Have you ever eaten
- She _____ here since March.
a) worked b) has worked
- When _____ your car?
a) did you buy b) have you bought

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. I have seen him yesterday.

2. I live here since 2020.

3. When have you arrived?

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **Past Simple** and one with **Present Perfect**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/past-simple-vs-present-perfect

Past Simple vs Present Perfect

1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) have finished** The result matters now (can I go out?), and no finished time is given.
2. **a) went** In 2019 is a finished time, so it takes the Past Simple.
3. **b) Have you ever eaten** Ever asks about life experience up to now.
4. **b) has worked** Since March connects the past to now: she still works here.
5. **a) did you buy** When? asks for a finished time, so it always takes the Past Simple.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **I saw him yesterday.** Yesterday is a finished time, so the Present Perfect can't be used.
2. **I have lived here since 2020.** Since links a past start to now, so the Present Perfect is needed.
3. **When did you arrive?** When? asks for a finished time. It always takes the Past Simple.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.