

Simple past or present perfect tense

The simple past tense is used to say that something happened some time ago. When we use this tense form, we usually also specify when that particular activity occurred. The present perfect tense is also used to talk about completed past actions and states. There is an important difference, though. We do not normally use finished time expressions with the present perfect tense.

Test your knowledge of simple past and present perfect tenses with this grammar exercise.

1. She English for the last 20 years.

taught

has taught

teaches

2. She English at university before she became a fulltime writer.

taught

has taught

3. I every book written by Jane

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Austen.

read

have read

4. Who 'Pride and Prejudice'?

wrote

has written

had written

5. Peter a window last night.

broke

has broken

6. She all her childhood in Mexico.

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spent

has spent

had spent

7. I can't walk because I my leg.

broke

have broken

8. Regularly every summer, Andrew
. in love.

had fallen

fell

has fallen

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9. Who you those marbles?

gave

has given

10. I'm sure we before.

met

have met

had met

Answers

1. She has taught English for the last 20 years.
2. She taught English at university before she became a fulltime writer.
3. I have read every book written by Jane Austen.
4. Who wrote 'Pride and Prejudice'?
5. Peter broke a window last night.

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6. She spent all her childhood in Mexico.
7. I can't walk because I have broken my leg.
8. Regularly every summer, Andrew fell in love.
9. Who gave you those marbles?
10. I am sure we have met before.