

Past Simple or Present Perfect Tense

Exercise

Both the simple past and the present perfect are used to talk about finished actions and situations. However, there is an important difference between them. The present perfect tense cannot be used with expressions referring to the past.

Can you use simple past and present perfect tenses correctly? Test your understanding with this grammar exercise.

1. I here when I was a child.

lived

have lived

2. I her since last year.

didn't see

haven't seen

3. She unhappy since she left school.

was

has been

4. 'Where is John?' 'He here ten minutes ago.'

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was
has been

5. They the contract last week.

signed
have signed

6. She ill for a long time.

was
has been

7. Somebody their umbrella in the lobby.

left
has left

8. a ghost?

Did you ever see
Have you ever seen

Past Simple or Present Perfect Tense Exercise

9. I can't get into my house because I
..... my keys.

lost
have lost

10. I six letters since
morning.

wrote
have written

11. Sophia absent since
Monday.

was
has been

12. You can't see him now because he
..... home.

went
has gone

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Answers

1. I lived here when I was a child.
2. I haven't seen her since last year.
3. She has been unhappy since she left school.
4. 'Where is John?' 'He was here ten minutes ago.'
5. They signed the contract last week.
6. She has been ill for a long time.
7. Somebody has left their umbrella in the lobby.
8. Have you ever seen a ghost?
9. I can't get into my house because I have lost my keys.
10. I have written six letters since morning.
11. Sophia has been absent since Monday.
12. You can't see him now because he has gone home.