

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

1. His father last year.

died

has died

When there is a definite past time reference we use the simple past tense.

2. James school at fourteen.

has left

left

had left

When there is a definite past time reference we use the simple past tense.

3. I him for ten years.

knew

know

have known

To talk about an action or situation that started in the past and has continued up to the present we use the present perfect tense.

4. I all of her novels.

read

have read

has read

When there is no definite time reference we use the present perfect tense.

5. You me for anything.

never thanked

have never thanked

had never thanked

When there is no definite time reference we use the present perfect tense.

6. I a strange experience last night.

had

have had

had had

When there is a definite past time reference, we use the simple past tense.

7. Suddenly I a knock on the door.

have heard

heard

was hearing

We use the simple past tense to simply state that something happened in the past.

8. There no one to rescue the child.

has been

was

had been

We use the simple past tense to state that something happened or didn't happen in the past.

9. The fox to eat the bunch of grapes hanging from the vine.

has wanted

wanted

had wanted

We use the simple past tense to say that something happened in the past.

10. This castle in the 16th century.

has been built

had been built

was built

When there is a definite past time reference we use the simple past tense.

11. I pity for the poor beggar.

have felt

had felt

felt

We use the simple past tense to say that something happened in the past.

12. You for the grand finale.

have selected

were

have been selected

When there is no definite time reference we use the present perfect tense.

PLAY AGAIN !

Answers

1. His father died last year.
2. James left school at fourteen.
3. I have known him for ten years.
4. I have read all of her novels.
5. You have never thanked me for anything.
6. I had a strange experience last night.
7. Suddenly I heard a knock on the door.
8. There was no one to rescue the child.
9. The fox wanted to eat the bunch of grapes hanging from the vine.
10. This castle was built in the 16th century.
11. I felt pity for the poor beggar.
12. You have been selected for the grand finale.