Fill in the blanks with an appropriate simple past or present perfect tense.

1. I’m sure we ……………………….. before.
   
   met  
   have met  
   had met  
   
   The present perfect tense is more common with the time expressions ever, before, never, yet and already.

2. I don’t believe in ghosts. At least, I …………………………. one yet.
   
   didn’t see  
   haven't seen  
   don't see  
   
   The present perfect tense is more common with the time expressions ever, before, never, yet and already.

3. She ……………………….. never sought anyone’s help in her life.
   
   was  
   has  
   have  
   
   The present perfect tense is more common with the time expressions ever, before, never, yet and already.

4. I ………………………….. her once.
   
   only met  
   have only met  
   had only met  
   
   The present perfect tense is common with the time expressions once.
5. I …………………………….. to my parents about my plans.
already spoke
have already spoken
had already spoken
The present perfect tense is more common with the time expressions ever, before, never, yet and already.

6. I …………………………………. the minister yesterday and he said he would help.
met
have met
was meeting
We do not use the present perfect tense with definite past time expressions like yesterday.

7. There …………………………….. an explosion at the castle last night.
was
has been
had been
Last night is a definite past time expression and we do not use the present perfect tense with past time expressions.

8. My grandparents …………………………….. a lot for me when they were alive.
did
have done
had done
Here we are thinking about a past time and hence we use the simple past tense.

9. How long …………………………….. married to him?
are you
Simple Past Or Present Perfect Tense

were you
have you been

We use the present perfect tense when we are thinking of a period of time continuing up to the present.

   is born
   has born
   was born
   had born

We use the simple past tense to give somebody’s year or date of birth.

11. I can’t go to the party because I ........................................ my leg.
   broke
   have broken
   had broken

We use the present perfect tense when we are thinking about past events together with their present results.

12. Who ........................................ you this mobile phone?
   give
   gave
   has given
   have given

We use the past tense when we identify the person responsible for a present situation.

PLAY AGAIN!

Answers

1. I’m sure we have met before.
2. I don’t believe in ghosts. At least, I haven’t seen one yet.
3. She has never sought anyone’s help in her life.
4. I have only met her once.
5. I have already spoken to my parents about my plans.
6. I met the minister yesterday and he said he would help.
7. There was an explosion at the castle last night.
8. My grandparents did a lot for me when they were alive.
9. How long have you been married to him?
10. He was born in 1979.
11. I can’t go to the party because I have broken my leg.
12. Who gave you this mobile phone?