

# 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 Austen.

read  
have read

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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.

spent  
has spent  
had spent

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

broke  
have broken

8. Regularly every summer, Andrew .....  
. in love.

# Simple past or present perfect tense

had fallen

fell

has fallen

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.