

Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Teacher's Notes

Level: Intermediate

In this Past Simple vs Present Perfect activity, students learn the differences between the Past Simple and the Present Perfect, then practise using them both alone and with a partner.

Aim: To teach students the differences between the Past Simple and Present Perfect tenses.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students start by completing the sentences regarding usage of the Past Simple and Present Perfect by writing 'PS' for Past Simple and 'PP' for Present Perfect.

answer key

1. PP
2. PS
3. PS
4. PP
5. PP
6. PS
7. PP

Exercise B: Next, students underline the correct form of the verb in the passage.

answer key

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| 1. has been | 6. have seen |
| 2. decided | 7. had |
| 3. flew | 8. was |
| 4. stayed | 9. have ever eaten |
| 5. have been | 10. haven't visited |

Exercise C: Students then complete the sentences, putting the verbs in the Past Simple or Present Perfect tense.

answer key

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. went / drank | 6. was / have ever read |
| 2. have just woken up / haven't had | 7. met / has already proposed |
| 3. has enjoyed / was | 8. bought / was |
| 4. got / haven't met | 9. has been / has never been |
| 5. didn't / was | 10. has already done / gave |

Exercise D: After this, students complete the sentences, choosing the correct verb and putting it in the Past Simple or Present Perfect tense.

answer key

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. haven't seen | 6. sold |
| 2. graduated | 7. has been |
| 3. have had | 8. have never met |
| 4. got | 9. booked |
| 5. have read | 10. haven't visited |

Exercise E: Finally, students complete sentences, making guesses about their partner, putting the verbs in brackets in either the Past Simple or Present Perfect tense. They then take turns reading out their sentences to each other to see how many of their guesses were correct.

answer key

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. have been | 6. have lived |
| 2. ate | 7. went |
| 3. went | 8. have read |
| 4. drank | 9. have visited |
| 5. have studied | 10. bought |