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Present perfect and past simple reading text

Reading practice is an excellent way to learn new vocabulary and also improve your grammar skills. The four English readings for beginners cover various topics, including verb tenses in the past, present, and future. The last dialogue includes real-life examples of the present perfect tense, which will help you move on to more challenging verb tenses. The first reading is a conversation between two friends about their weekend activities. It describes what they did from Friday to Sunday, including visiting a bar, playing pool tournaments, watching movies, and relaxing at home. The dialogue also includes questions that test your comprehension skills. I'm thinking of living in France for a few months to improve, and I'll practice guitar every day since I won't have to study daily. I'll spend time at the beach and swim in the sea. It'll cost me a lot, but I think it'll be fine. When I come back to Dublin, I'll get a job and make a lot of money, so I can rent a big apartment and throw big parties with friends. I'll miss my family when I'm there, so they're coming over for dinner every weekend at my new place. Sarah walked into Kate's room and said "You look terrible! Didn't you get any sleep last night?" Kate replied that she'd spent the entire night working on her essay. Sarah reminded her that she was used to pulling all-nighters, but Kate admitted she wasn't done yet. The topic of her essay was the Spanish Civil War, which Kate had read about in two lengthy articles but still needed more time to understand. Sarah offered to join her at the National Library in the city, saying "I remember writing an essay on World War 2 and doing heaps of research - it turned out quite long!" They decided to catch a train to the city, grab some coffee, and then head to the library together. Looking forward to reading this book and sharing my thoughts with you. Have you ever watched a John Wayne film? This experience has left me speechless. It's been the best thing I've ever done, and it's the most amazing place we've travelled to. We can use the present perfect simple with superlative adjectives and "ever" to describe past experiences that still have an impact today. We can also use the present perfect to talk about how many times something has happened until now. I've watched this film three times, and we've been to Paris twice. The question is whether we say "have gone to" or "have been to." We say someone has gone somewhere when they're still away, and we say someone has been somewhere when they've already come back. The present perfect is used with "for," "since," and "how long" to ask or talk about situations that started in the past and have not finished. Tom has been to Ireland for a couple of weeks, whereas we've only been there three times - we love it! We can use "for" + period of time (e.g., two hours, three days) and "since" + moment in the past when something started. I've been here since morning, and she's been my teacher for three years. We can also use "lately," "all morning," or "all day" to talk about actions that started in the past and continue in the present. She's been with me all day, and I've been very busy lately. The key is to remember when we use the present perfect (not past simple) - when we don't say or know when something happened. I've lost my keys, but we often use "ago" in negative answers. We arrived yesterday, but if we give more details, then we use the past simple. We can summarize as follows: the present perfect is used to talk about completed actions with a connection to the present, and it's used differently depending on the situation and context. We use the present perfect tense to describe past actions or events when we don't specify the exact time they happened. For example, "I've broken my arm" doesn't say how long ago it happened. I've been very busy lately, but don't use "ago" because it's not correct with the present perfect. I've had my watch since two years, and I've lost my keys. We use the present perfect to talk about past experiences and actions when we don't know when they happened. We use the past simple when we mention or ask about specific times. When something happens, we often use phrases like "last week" or "yesterday." Giving details in the past simple, but if we continue talking, we might switch to the present perfect. A person who's been to the cinema might say they saw a good film by... and then someone else will ask about their injury. There are short forms for 's have='ve have not=haven't. They're not used in positive answers. We can use just after "have" to emphasize recent events, but it goes before the verb. Already is used in positive sentences to talk about completed actions sooner than expected. Yet is at the end of a sentence when talking about future events. The present perfect tense is used for actions or situations that started in the past but haven't finished yet. This includes actions that occurred multiple times before now, like watching a film three times. It's also used to talk about experiences that continue up to the current time, such as being married for 25 years. When talking about how long something has taken, we use "for" or "since". For example, "We've been friends for five years" implies you're still friends now, while "we were friends for five years" means your friendship ended. "Since" usually indicates a specific point in the past when something started. The present perfect is used with time expressions like "hours", "days", or "years". For instance, "I've been here for hours" suggests you're still there now. We can also use it to talk about ongoing actions that began in the past and continue into the current moment, like being very busy lately. However, if we already know when something happened, we typically use the past simple tense instead of the present perfect. For example, "I've lost my keys" is more common than using the past simple, but saying "We arrived yesterday" uses the past simple because you're specifying a specific time. When giving details about what happened in the past, we often switch from the present perfect to the past simple tense. So if someone says "I've been to Paris", it's okay to ask "What did you see?" and they'll respond with details in the past simple tense. Common short forms include 's (has) for singular subjects and 've (have) for plural or singular subjects, as well as haven't (have not). Short answers typically use the full verb form instead of short forms. We must stress that these events are quite recent, having occurred much sooner than anticipated. To describe actions completed earlier than expected, we utilize already in positive sentences, placing it after the verb "have". For instance: "I've already finished my homework." On the other hand, yet is employed in negative sentences and inquiries regarding upcoming actions, positioning itself at the sentence's end. Consider these examples: "Have you finished your homework yet?" or "I haven't finished my homework yet." Recent activities The present perfect often pairs with recently to discuss past actions that have taken place recently. A case in point: "They've recently purchased a new vehicle." Specific timeframes Using the present perfect alongside temporal expressions is also acceptable when mentioning periods of time that are ongoing but not completed. Take, for example: "I've seen John today" or "Has she contacted you this week?" Experiences from the past The present perfect is commonly used to discuss past experiences without specifying a particular time frame. This can be observed in phrases such as "He has been to the moon" and "I haven't been to India." Avoiding specificity The adverbs never, ever, or before are frequently employed alongside the present perfect when discussing past experiences that lack a specified timeframe. For instance: "I've never read this book" or "Have you ever seen a John Wayne film?" Achievements Utilizing the present perfect simple in conjunction with superlative adjectives and ever can help convey exceptional accomplishments. Consider these examples: "This is the best meal I've ever had" or "It's the most amazing destination we've ever traveled to." Frequency of occurrence The present perfect can also be used to describe how many times a particular event has occurred up until now. For instance: "I've watched this film three times" or "We've visited Paris twice." Duration and time frames Using for, since, and how long in conjunction with the present perfect enables us to discuss ongoing situations that commenced in the past but have not concluded yet. This can be seen in phrases such as "We've been married for 25 years" or "I've had this watch since I was a kid." and actions when we don't say or don't know when they happened. I've lost my keys. We use the past simple for talking about completed events that occurred in the past and whose timing is known by both speakers. We often use fixed expressions (last week, yesterday, etc.) We've arrived yesterday. When did the accident happen? Giving details in the past simple we use present perfect to introduce a past event or experience but if continuing talking and giving more details then we use past simple.

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