

Trouble Spots: *Present Perfect*



Key to the additional exercises

A. Find the correct tenses for the verbs in brackets (). Watch out for signal words!

1. **Yesterday** Liz **had** cocoa for breakfast.
→ **simple past**; signal word **yesterday** indicates completed action in the past without any present results
2. Stephen **has never been** to France, but he **went** to Italy **in 2016**.
→ **present perfect**; signal word **never** indicates present result (he doesn't know France)
→ **simple past**; signal word **in 2016** indicates completed action in the past without any present results
3. Fiona went camping **last week**. One night her tent **fell** down on her.
→ **simple past**; signal word **last week** is in the sentence before, but also goes for the following sentence
4. She **moved** to Glasgow **in 2014**.
→ **simple past**; signal word **in 2014** indicates completed action in the past without any present results
5. I **have done** my maths homework, but I **haven't started** my essay **yet**.
→ **present perfect**; shows a present result of a past action (= maths homework is finished now)
→ **present perfect**; signal word **not yet** shows another present result of a past action (... or lack of! ☺)
6. **Have** you **ever met** the Loch Ness Monster?
→ **present perfect**; signal word **ever** shows a present result of a past action (you know what Nessie looks like...)
7. We **have just made** scones. Would you like to try some?
→ **present perfect**; signal word **just** shows an action in the immediate past with a present results (the scones are ready to be eaten)
8. **When she was a child** my grandma **sang** in a choir.
→ **simple past**; signal word **when she was....** shows a point of time in the past, focus on this point of time (**When** did it happen? → **When** she was...)
9. I **have often been** on my grandparents' farm, so I know it like the back of my hand.
→ **present perfect**; signal word **often** shows a present result (=the speaker knows the farm very well) of a series of actions in the past (= being on the farm)
10. I **have had** this car **since** 2011.
→ **present perfect**; signal word **since** shows the result of an action beginning at a certain point of time in the past

B. Please translate! But be careful - English and German tenses aren't always the same...

1. Dave hat **schon oft** Cricket gespielt.
Dave **has often played** cricket. → **present perfect; focus on result**
2. **Vor drei Wochen** habe ich ein tolles Buch gelesen.
Three weeks ago I **read** a great book. / I **read** a great book **three weeks ago**. → **simple past; focus on "when?"**
3. Ich war **noch nie** in den Vereinigten Staaten.
I've **never been** to the United States. → **present perfect; focus on result**
4. Polly hat ihre *fish and chips* **noch nicht** fertiggegessen.
Polly **hasn't finished** her fish and chips (**yet**). → **present perfect; focus on result**
5. Sie hat **von 2005 bis 2012** in Exeter gelebt.
She **lived** in Exeter **from 2005 to 2012**. / **From 2005 to 2012** she lived... → **simple past; focus on "when?"**
6. Katie hatte **schon immer** Hunde. Deshalb weiß sie, wie man mit ihnen umgeht.
Katie **has always had** dogs. That's why she knows how to handle them. → **present perfect; focus on result**
7. William spielt **seit acht Jahren** Violine (= *play the violin*).
William **has played** the violin **for** eight years. → **present perfect; focus on a process starting in the past and still going on**
8. Chris und ich sind Freunde **seit wir in der Grundschule anfangen**.
Chris and I **have been** friends **since** we started primary school. → **present perfect; focus on a process starting in the past and still going on**