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Basics: Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

Easy | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Present tense | Past tense | Perfect tense | Simple tense | English Grammar Basics

1. Fill in the missing verbs in the detective's highly serious interrogation transcript.

Detective: "_____ a jelly donut from the break room?"
Suspect: "Yes, but I _____ that donut two days ago! It's ancient history!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** Have you ever stolen
- **B)** Did you ever steal
- **C)** Do you ever steal

Blank 2
- **A)** ate
- **B)** have eaten
- **C)** eat

2. Help the superfan update their blog post about their favorite singer.

She _____ her debut album in 2019. Since then, she _____ five major music awards!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** released
- **B)** has released
- **C)** releases

Blank 2
- **A)** has won
- **B)** won
- **C)** wins

3. Complete the hungry college student's text message to her roommate by choosing the correct form for each blank.

We _____ pizza three times last week. To be completely honest, I _____ three slices so far today.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
- **A)** ordered
- **B)** have ordered
- **C)** are ordering

Blank 2
- **A)** have eaten
- **B)** ate
- **C)** eat

4. Complete the roommate's suspicious confession.

I'm sorry, but I ___ the last slice of your leftover pizza at 2:00 AM last night.

Select one.

- **A)** have eaten
- **B)** ate
- **C)** have ate
- **D)** eaten

5. A food critic is writing a review of a bizarre dining experience. Select ALL the sentences that correctly describe the situation using the proper tense.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I have never eaten deep-fried ice cream before today.
- **B)** I have eaten deep-fried ice cream last week.
- **C)** The chef served the soup in a shoe.
- **D)** The chef has served the soup in a shoe ten minutes ago.
- **E)** I have visited many strange restaurants in my life, but this is the strangest.

6. Help Grandpa finish his impressive travel boast.

I ___ skydiving five times in my life, and I plan to go again next month!

Select one.

- **A)** went
- **B)** go
- **C)** have been
- **D)** have go

7. Complete the roommate's dramatic text message about their culinary disaster.

I _____ to make sushi last night, but it was a complete catastrophe. Honestly, I _____ something so terrible in my entire life!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** tried
- **B)** have tried
- **C)** try

Blank 2

- **A)** have never eaten
- **B)** never ate
- **C)** have never ate

8. Help Detective Miller complete his interrogation notes by choosing the correct verb for each blank.

"I _____ to London last Tuesday," the suspect claimed, sweating nervously. "But I _____ the British Museum in my entire life!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** went
- **B)** have gone
- **C)** go

Blank 2

- **A)** have never visited
- **B)** never visited
- **C)** never visit

9. Complete the teenager's dramatic complaint.

My phone is dead! I ___ to my best friend since 8:00 AM!

Select one.

- **A)** didn't speak
- **B)** haven't spoken
- **C)** haven't spoke
- **D)** don't speak

10. Help the proud gamer complete their forum post by choosing the appropriate verb for each gap.

I _____ this game for three years, and I still love it! I remember when I _____ it on launch day in 2021.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** have played
- **B)** played
- **C)** play

Blank 2

- **A)** bought
- **B)** have bought
- **C)** buy

11. Read the teenager's dramatic excuses for not doing their homework. Select ALL the sentences that use the correct verb tense and time word combination.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I lost my textbook yesterday!
- **B)** I have lost my textbook yesterday!
- **C)** I have already finished the easiest questions.
- **D)** I finished the easiest questions since 8 PM.
- **E)** I haven't started the essay yet.

12. A ghost and a vampire are chatting about their spooky homes. Select ALL the sentences that are grammatically correct.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I have lived in this haunted castle for three centuries.
- **B)** I have lived in this haunted castle since three centuries.
- **C)** I lived in a damp cave before I moved here.
- **D)** I have moved to this castle in 1890.
- **E)** The local villagers haven't visited me since last Halloween.