

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.