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Past Simple vs. Present Perfect for Romance Language Speakers

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Irregular verb | Negation | Past tense | Present tense | Verb | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Simple tense

1. Complete the friends' dramatic text message exchange about a terrible new roommate.

My new roommate is a disaster! She _____ three plates this week!

And the worst part? She _____ my favorite coffee mug yesterday morning!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** broke
- **B)** has broken
- **C)** break

Blank 2

- **A)** has dropped
- **B)** dropped
- **C)** droped

2. Help the detective review her notes. Select ALL the grammatically correct statements from the suspect's alibi.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** "I have visited my grandmother last Tuesday."
- **B)** "I visited my grandmother last Tuesday."
- **C)** "I haven't seen her since December."
- **D)** "I didn't see her since December."

3. Help the dramatic food critic finish his scathing restaurant review by choosing the correct verb for each blank.

I _____ many terrible restaurants in my life, but this one is the absolute worst! To make matters worse, the clumsy waiter _____ my hot soup directly onto my lap yesterday!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** visited
- **B)** have visited
- **C)** was visiting

Blank 2

- **A)** dropped
- **B)** has dropped
- **C)** is dropping

4. Help the detective complete her interrogation notes by selecting the correct verb forms.

"Tell me the truth, Mr. Smith. How many times _____ to Paris in your life?"

"I swear, Detective! I only _____ there once, last summer."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** did you travel
- **B)** have you traveled
- **C)** you traveled

Blank 2

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

5. Help the ancient vampire complain accurately to his therapist.

"I am so incredibly hungry! I _____ a decent meal since 1893!"

Select one.

- **A)** didn't have
- **B)** haven't had
- **C)** don't have
- **D)** wasn't having

6. Review this globetrotter's dating profile. Select ALL the sentences that correctly use English verb tenses to describe his culinary adventures.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** "I have eaten deep-fried tarantula in Cambodia in 2018."
- **B)** "I ate deep-fried tarantula in Cambodia in 2018."
- **C)** "I have tried almost every street food in Bangkok."
- **D)** "I have tried almost every street food when I lived in Bangkok."

7. Choose the correct verbs to complete this spooky conversation between two ghosts.

"I _____ this gloomy castle since 1492," the first ghost complained. "It's so boring now. The previous ghost _____ out exactly five centuries ago to find a nice apartment."

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** have haunted
- **B)** haunted
- **C)** haunt

Blank 2

- **A)** moved
- **B)** has moved
- **C)** moves

8. Complete the time-traveler's rather confusing diary entry.

I am stuck in 1899. I _____ my time machine's keys yesterday, and now I'm living in a barn with a very confused horse.

Select one.

- **A)** have lost
- **B)** lost
- **C)** lose
- **D)** was losing

9. Complete the clumsy spy's urgent message to headquarters by choosing the correct verb form for each gap.

Boss, I _____ the top-secret gadget! I am so sorry. I _____ it on the subway this morning while I was eating a bagel.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** have lost
- **B)** lost
- **C)** lose

Blank 2

- **A)** left
- **B)** have left
- **C)** leave

10. Choose the correct phrase to complete the alien tourist's postcard home.

Earth is exhausting! I _____ three human cities so far this week, and I still haven't found any good pizza.

Select one.

- **A)** visited
- **B)** visit
- **C)** have visited
- **D)** was visiting

11. Help the dramatic chef finish his kitchen meltdown by choosing the right tenses.

"I am a culinary genius! I _____ a flawless five-course meal for the Mayor in 2015!

But I _____ such a terrible, disgusting soup in my entire life!"

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** have cooked
- **B)** cooked
- **C)** cook

Blank 2

- **A)** never made
- **B)** have never made
- **C)** have never make

12. The intern is trying to reassure their stressed boss. Select ALL the grammatically correct updates they could send.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** "I finished the quarterly report two hours ago."
- **B)** "I have finished the quarterly report two hours ago."
- **C)** "I have already sent the presentation to the clients."
- **D)** "I already have sent the presentation yesterday."