



## Word Classes in E4BT

### Past Tenses' Forms and Usages

#### \*\*\*\* Past Simple vs Present Perfect \*\*\*\*

## PAST SIMPLE

### FORMS

#### affirmative form

I became  
You became  
He/She/It became  
We became  
You became  
They became

#### negative form<sup>1</sup>

I did not become  
You did not become  
He/She/It did not become  
We did not become  
You did not become  
They did not become

#### interrogative form

Did I become?  
Did you become?  
Did he/she/it become?  
Did we become?  
Did you become?  
Did they become?

## USAGES

#### ✧ talking about states and actions which finished in the past:

- Alexander Fleming **discovered** penicillin.
- 'Did you **read** the paper?' 'Yes, and I **sent** it back to the Journal'.
- When she **was** young, she **wanted** to be a biologist.

#### ✧ saying when something took place in the past, i.e., referring to a definite moment or period in the past:

- They **left** at half past nine.
- I **met** the Director of ECDC [*European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control*] yesterday.
- The first probable infections of BSE [*Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy*] in cows **occurred** during the 1970s in the UK.

<sup>1</sup> The contracted form of the auxiliary (**didn't**) is mainly used in spoken or informal English.

✧ **describing events in a past narrative:**

- Last year the Ministry of Health **introduced** two new vaccines and **recommended** to include them in all immunisation programmes.

✧ **when a time clause, (also called “adverbial of time”), ending with *ago* (= before now) is used:**

- I **spoke** to them an hour ago.
- Ebola virus disease **broke out** in Central Africa forty-six years ago.

**EXAMPLES OF TIME ADVERBS USED WITH THE PAST SIMPLE:**

<b>at:</b>	at ten o'clock / at the end of the month / at the weekend, ...
<b>in:</b>	in the morning / in July / in 2001 / in the 1980s / in the summer ...
<b>on:</b>	on Tuesday / on Tuesday afternoon / on March 10 <sup>th</sup> ...
<b>no preposition:</b>	yesterday / a few days ago / last week / when I was young

\* \* \* \* \*

**PRESENT PERFECT**

**FORMS**

**affirmative form<sup>2</sup>**

I have bred  
You have bred  
He/She/It has bred  
We have bred  
You have bred  
They have bred

**negative form<sup>3</sup>**

I have not bred  
You have not bred  
He/She/It has not bred  
We have not bred  
You have not bred  
They have not bred

**interrogative form**

Have I bred?  
Have you bred?  
Has he/she/it bred?  
Have we bred?  
Have you bred?  
Have they bred?

<sup>2</sup> Auxiliary's contracted forms – namely 've and 's – are mainly used in spoken or informal English.

<sup>3</sup> Auxiliary's contracted forms – namely **haven't** and **hasn't** – are mainly used in spoken or informal English.

## USAGES

### ✧ talking about the present effects of past or recent events: results/consequences/ fallouts

- The EMA President **has resigned**.
- They **have redesigned** their website.
- **Have you heard** the news? Protein pharmaceuticals **have become** the fastest growing class of therapeutics owing to their beneficial impacts on the treatment of severe and life-threatening conditions and diseases.

### ✧ talking about experiences in someone's life up to the present:

- She **has travelled** a lot and **has lived** in several countries.

### ✧ announcing news:

- Our fax number **has changed**.
- The WHO **has announced** Kenya will receive the Covid-19 vaccine in small portions from 2021.

### ✧ with time references that combine past and present: e.g., “this year” usually stands for “from the beginning of the year until now”:

- This year the programme **has vaccinated** about 13,000 children.

### ✧ when adverbs such as *already, ever, never, just, still, yet, not ... yet, so far, up to now, over the last few days, recently, lately*, and so on, are used.

#### WARNING:

#### **already** goes between the auxiliary and the full verb:

- I **have** already **studied** present tenses in English.

#### **ever** is used in questions and is often followed by an answer in the past simple:

- ‘**Have** you ever **worked** abroad?’ ‘Yes, I have. I **worked** for a research lab in London. That was about ten years ago’.

#### **never** goes between the auxiliary and the full verb:

- I **have** never **been** to the United States<sup>4</sup>.

#### **yet** is usually at the end of the sentence:

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<sup>4</sup> Pay attention to the differences between *been* and *gone*:

- They have **been** to Italy twice this year. (they have come back)
- They have **gone** to Italy. (they are still there)

- 'Is the report ready?' 'No, I **haven't finished** it yet'.
- **Have** George and Vanessa **arrived** yet?

**still** goes in front the verbal chain (auxiliary + full verb):

- We still **haven't finished** the installation. It's taking a long time.

**so far** is usually at the end or at the beginning of the sentence:

- We've **had** a good year so far.
- India **has surpassed** 15.6 million total reported infections so far, second-most after the United States.
- So far, only five mAbs [*monoclonal antibodies*] **have been approved** for the management of infectious states.

**WARNING!!!!** Sometimes such adverbs may be "hidden" in English, but when you translate into Italian it may be necessary to add an adverb or a time reference in order to better combine past and present:

- Polio is an example of a disease that **has been eradicated** in the USA as a result of vaccines. Other diseases that **have been** nearly **eradicated** in the USA include diphtheria, bacterial influenza, measles, mumps, rubella and tetanus, according to Vox. Worldwide, two diseases – smallpox and rinderpest, a disease that affects cattle – **have been wiped** out.

✧ when a time clause introduced by the prepositions **for** and **since** is used:

- She **has been** a researcher for ten years.
- From the Abyssinian to the Turkish van, cat lineages **have been bred** for decades to produce felines with minor physical distinctions.
- He **has had** the same job since 2006.
- Since the SARS-CoV-2 virus was first recognized in December of 2019, it **has spread** across the world.