

## Past Tenses in E4PS

### Past Simple vs Present Perfect

#### PAST SIMPLE

##### A Form

- This table shows the past simple of the verb *to work*.

| Affirmative             | Negative                               | Question                   |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>I worked</i>         | <i>I did not (didn't) work</i>         | <i>Did I work?</i>         |
| <i>You worked</i>       | <i>You did not (didn't) work</i>       | <i>Did you work?</i>       |
| <i>He/she/it worked</i> | <i>He/she/it did not (didn't) work</i> | <i>Did he/she/it work?</i> |
| <i>We worked</i>        | <i>We did not (didn't) work</i>        | <i>Did we work?</i>        |
| <i>They worked</i>      | <i>They did not (didn't) work</i>      | <i>Did they work?</i>      |

- The verb *to work* is regular. Regular verbs add *-d* or *-ed* to the infinitive to form the affirmative.

##### B Irregular verbs

- There are many verbs where the affirmative of the past simple is irregular.

#### Uses

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

Mark Zuckerberg **co-founded** Facebook.

'**Did you read** the contract?' 'Yes, and I **sent** it back to the legal department'.

When she **was** young, she **wanted** to be a flight-assistant.

- ✧ **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 ten.

I **met** the President yesterday.

The standards of living in Europe **went up** during the 1960s.

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

Last year we **introduced** a number of new products and **announced** record profits.

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

I **spoke** to them an hour ago.

Croatia **entered** the European Union twelve years ago.

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

|                        |                                                                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>at:</b>             | at ten o'clock / at the end of the month / at the weekend,<br>...        |
| <b>in:</b>             | in the morning / in July / in 2001 / in the 1980s / in the<br>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<br>...         |



## PRESENT PERFECT

### A Form

- We form the present perfect with the auxiliary *has/have* + the past participle.

| Affirmative                      | Negative                                 | Question                     |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>I have ('ve) worked</i>       | <i>I have not (haven't) worked</i>       | <i>Have I worked?</i>        |
| <i>You have ('ve) worked</i>     | <i>You have not (haven't) worked</i>     | <i>Have you worked?</i>      |
| <i>He/she/it has ('s) worked</i> | <i>He/she/it has not (hasn't) worked</i> | <i>Has he/she/it worked?</i> |
| <i>We have ('ve) worked</i>      | <i>We have not (haven't) worked</i>      | <i>Have we worked?</i>       |
| <i>They have ('ve) worked</i>    | <i>They have not (haven't) worked</i>    | <i>Have they worked?</i>     |

### Uses

✧ **talking about the present effects of past or recent events:**

The President **has resigned**.

They **have redesigned** their website.

**Have you heard** the news? Our share prices **have crashed**.

✧ **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 email address **has changed**.

The WHO **has announced** a shocking finding about the air we breathe.

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

Our customer base **has grown** by 10% this year.

✧ **when time adverbs such as *already, ever, never, just, still, yet, not ... yet, so far, up to now, over the last few days* 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:**

Q.: **Have** you ever **worked** abroad?

A.: Yes, I have. I **worked** for a bank 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>1</sup>.

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

'Is the report ready?' 'No, I **haven't finished** it yet'.

**Have** you **met** the new CEO 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:**

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<sup>1</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).

We've **had** a good year so far.  
So far, they **haven't reached** an agreement.

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

He **has been** vice-president for ten years.  
He **has attended** the University of Teramo for two years.  
He **has had** the same job since 2006.  
He **has lived** in London since 2010.