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 ***worked***	*I* ***did not (didn't) work***	***Did*** *I* ***work?***
You ***worked***	*You* ***did not (didn't) work***	***Did*** *you* ***work?***
He/she/it ***worked***	*He/she/it* ***did not (didn't) work***	***Did*** *he/she/it* ***work?***
We ***worked***	*We* ***did not (didn't) work***	***Did*** *we* ***work?***
They ***worked***	*They* ***did not (didn't) work***	***Did*** *they* ***work?***

- 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 <u>finished</u> 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 <u>definite</u> 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.

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✧ **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:

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

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PRESENT PERFECT

A Form

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

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

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? Yesterday Our share prices **crashed.**

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✧ **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[1].

***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:**

We'**ve had** a good year so far.

[1] 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).

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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.

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