



The Past Simple or The Present Perfect Exercise

A Match the tense uses and clue words with the **past simple** and **present perfect**.

Uses
-an action which began in the past and continues
-a specified time in the past
-an unspecified time in the past

Clue Words		
ago	since	yesterday
ever	when	yet

Past Simple

Uses

- 1 *a finished action in the past*
- 2

Clue words

.....

.....

.....

Present Perfect

Uses

- 3
- 4

Clue words

.....

.....

.....

B Number the uses (1-4) and fill the gaps with the verbs in brackets using either the **present perfect** or the **past simple**.

Uses

- 1 A: I Anna for a long time. (to see, negative)
- 2 B: Really? I her yesterday. (to see)
- 3 They to Venice three years ago. (to go)
- 4 Dave lost his wallet on Sunday but he it on Monday in his jacket pocket. (to find)
- 5 you ever to Paris? (to be)
- 6 We in this house for five years and we're very happy here. (to live)
- 7 I know Manchester quite well. I there for three years when I was a student. (to live)
- 8 He Sally in the supermarket last week. (to meet)
- 9 She feels great. She three kilos since Christmas. (to lose)
- 10 It's cold in here because someone the window. (to open)
- 11 Before they bought the car, they about it very carefully. (to think)
- 12 you the cat yet? (to feed)
- 13 The last time I tennis was four years ago. (to play)
- 14 When you it? (to download)

C Now write some examples of your own.





Answers

A

Past Simple

Uses

- 1 A specified time in the past
- 2 a finished action in the past

Clue words

- 1 ago
- 2 when
- 3 yesterday

Present Perfect

Uses

- 1 an action... began ... past... contin...
- 2 an unspecified time in the past

Clue words

- 1 ever
- 2 since
- 3 yet

B

- 1 A: I haven't seen Anna for a long time. 3
- 2 B: Really? I saw her yesterday. 2
- 3 They went to Venice three years ago. 2
- 4 David lost his wallet on Sunday but he found it on Monday in his jacket pocket.
1 or 2
- 5 Have you been to Paris? 4
- 6 We have lived in this house for five years and we're very happy here. 3
- 7 I know Manchester quite well. I lived there for three years when I was a student
1
- 8 He met Sally in the supermarket last week. 2
- 9 She feels great. She have lost three kilos since Christmas. 3
- 10 It's cold in here because someone has opened the window. 4
- 11 Before they bought the car, they thought about it very carefully. 1
- 12 Have you fed the cat yet? 4
- 13 The last time I played tennis was four years ago. 2
- 14 When did you download it? 2

