



Past Simple: Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I ____ (visit) Paris three times. The last time ____ (be) in 2019.
a) have visited, was
b) have visited, has been
c) visited, has been
d) visited, was
- She ____ (not/finish) her report yet.
a) not finished
b) didn't finish
c) wasn't finishing
d) hasn't finished
- They ____ (move) to London last year.
a) moved
b) had moved
c) have moved
d) were moving
- I ____ (just/finish) my homework. Can I go out now?
a) just finish
b) had just finished
c) was just finishing
d) have just finished
- Shakespeare ____ (write) many famous plays.
a) has written
b) wrote
c) was writing
d) had written
- I ____ (know) him since we were children.
a) am knowing
b) knew
c) have known
d) had known
- Where ____ you ____ (go) on holiday last summer?
a) have, gone
b) had, gone
c) were, going
d) did, go
- ____ you ever ____ (try) sushi?
a) Did, try
b) Were, trying
c) Have, tried
d) Had, tried
- I ____ (lose) my keys. Can you help me find them?
a) had lost
b) was losing
c) have lost
d) lost
- When ____ (be) the last time you ____ (see) a doctor?
a) was, saw
b) has been, saw
c) was, have seen
d) has been, have seen
- She ____ (work) here for five years now.
a) worked
b) has worked
c) is working
d) had worked

12. I ____ (see) that movie yesterday. It ____ (be) amazing!
 a) saw, has been
 b) saw, was
 c) have seen, has been
 d) have seen, was
13. This is the best book I ____ (ever/read).
 a) had ever read
 b) ever read
 c) have ever read
 d) am ever reading
14. My grandfather ____ (die) in 1995.
 a) had died
 b) was dying
 c) died
 d) has died
15. I ____ (not/eat) anything today. I'm very hungry.
 a) hadn't eaten
 b) didn't eat
 c) wasn't eating
 d) haven't eaten
16. How long ago ____ you ____ (graduate)?
 a) did, graduate
 b) were, graduating
 c) had, graduated
 d) have, graduated
17. Technology ____ (change) a lot in recent years.
 a) had changed
 b) has changed
 c) changed
 d) is changing
18. I ____ (already/see) this episode. Let's watch something else.
 a) have already seen
 b) already saw
 c) had already seen
 d) am already seeing
19. She ____ (live) in Tokyo for two years when she was a student.
 a) had lived
 b) lived
 c) was living
 d) has lived
20. We ____ (be) friends for over 20 years.
 a) had been
 b) were
 c) are being
 d) have been



Answers

1. a) have visited, was
2. d) hasn't finished
3. a) moved
4. d) have just finished
5. b) wrote
6. c) have known
7. d) did, go
8. c) Have, tried
9. c) have lost
10. a) was, saw
11. b) has worked
12. b) saw, was
13. c) have ever read
14. c) died
15. d) haven't eaten
16. a) did, graduate
17. b) has changed
18. a) have already seen
19. b) lived
20. d) have been



Explanations

1. “have visited, was” (a)

Present Perfect for life experience (no specific time). Past Simple for a specific time (in 2019).

2. “hasn't finished” (d)

'Yet' signals Present Perfect — the action is not complete but may happen.

3. “moved” (a)

'Last year' is a finished time → use Past Simple.

4. “have just finished” (d)

'Just' with Present Perfect for very recent completion with relevance to now.

5. “wrote” (b)

Shakespeare is dead → finished time period → Past Simple.

6. “have known” (c)

'Since' + past point signals Present Perfect — the knowing continues to now.

7. “did, go” (d)

'Last summer' is a finished time → Past Simple question.

8. “Have, tried” (c)

'Ever' asks about life experience → Present Perfect.

9. “have lost” (c)

Present Perfect because the result matters now (keys are still missing).

10. “was, saw” (a)

'The last time' refers to a specific occasion → Past Simple.

11. “has worked” (b)

'For + period + now' signals Present Perfect — she still works here.

12. “saw, was” (b)

'Yesterday' is a finished time → Past Simple for both verbs.

13. “have ever read” (c)

Superlative + Present Perfect for the best/worst experience in your life so far.

14. “died” (c)

Specific past time (in 1995) → Past Simple.

15. “haven't eaten” (d)

'Today' is not finished → Present Perfect. The result affects now (hungry).

16. “did, graduate” (a)

'Ago' is used with Past Simple for a specific time in the past.

17. “has changed” (b)

'In recent years' connects past to present → Present Perfect.

18. “have already seen” (a)

'Already' with Present Perfect for something completed before expected.

19. “lived” (b)

'When she was a student' is a finished period → Past Simple.

20. “have been” (d)

'For + period' with ongoing friendship → Present Perfect. We are still friends.