



Tense Comparison: Past Simple vs Present Perfect

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. I ___ to Paris three times.
a) have been
b) went
c) have gone
d) was
2. She ___ her homework yesterday.
a) have finished
b) finished
c) finishes
d) has finished
3. I ___ that movie yet.
a) didn't see
b) haven't seen
c) wasn't seeing
d) don't see
4. When ___ you ___ your driving test?
a) have / passed
b) have / pass
c) did / pass
d) did / passed
5. They ___ married for 20 years.
a) have
b) were
c) have been
d) are
6. He ___ to London in 2019.
a) moved
b) moves
c) have moved
d) has moved
7. I ___ already ___ lunch, so I'm not hungry.
a) did / ate
b) have / ate
c) have / eaten
d) did / eat
8. We ___ each other since childhood.
a) are knowing
b) know
c) knew
d) have known
9. Shakespeare ___ many famous plays.
a) have written
b) writes
c) wrote
d) has written
10. ___ you ever ___ sushi?
a) Have / tried
b) Did / tried
c) Did / try
d) Have / try
11. I ___ my wallet. Can you help me find it?
a) have lost
b) lose
c) lost
d) was losing

12. Last week, she ____ a new car.
a) buys
b) have bought
c) has bought
d) bought
13. I ____ in this city for ten years. I love it here.
a) have lived
b) am living
c) lived
d) live
14. Where ____ you ____ on holiday last summer?
a) did / went
b) have / been
c) have / gone
d) did / go
15. The train ____ just _____. We missed it!
a) have / left
b) did / leave
c) was / leaving
d) has / left
16. I ____ him at the party two days ago.
a) saw
b) have seen
c) have saw
d) see
17. She ____ never ____ a horse before.
a) have / ridden
b) has / rode
c) did / ride
d) has / ridden
18. The company ____ in 1990.
a) is founded
b) has founded
c) has been founded
d) was founded
19. This is the best coffee I ____ ever _____.
a) was / tasting
b) did / taste
c) have / tasted
d) have / taste
20. I ____ in that company for five years, but then I got a better job.
a) was working
b) work
c) worked
d) have worked



Answers

1. a) have been
2. b) finished
3. b) haven't seen
4. c) did / pass
5. c) have been
6. a) moved
7. c) have / eaten
8. d) have known
9. c) wrote
10. a) Have / tried
11. a) have lost
12. d) bought
13. a) have lived
14. d) did / go
15. d) has / left
16. a) saw
17. d) has / ridden
18. d) was founded
19. c) have / tasted
20. c) worked



Explanations

1. “have been” (a)

Present Perfect is used for life experiences without a specific time. 'Have been' means visited and returned.

2. “finished” (b)

'Yesterday' is a specific past time, so we use Past Simple 'finished'.

3. “haven't seen” (b)

'Yet' signals Present Perfect for something that hasn't happened up to now.

4. “did / pass” (c)

'When' questions about specific past times use Past Simple: 'When did you pass?'

5. “have been” (c)

'For 20 years' indicates a duration up to now, requiring Present Perfect 'have been'.

6. “moved” (a)

'In 2019' is a specific past time, requiring Past Simple 'moved'.

7. “have / eaten” (c)

'Already' with a result affecting now uses Present Perfect 'have eaten'.

8. “have known” (d)

'Since childhood' indicates a period from the past to now, requiring Present Perfect.

9. “wrote” (c)

Shakespeare is dead (finished time period), so we use Past Simple for his actions.

10. “Have / tried” (a)

'Ever' in questions about life experience uses Present Perfect 'Have you tried?'

11. “have lost” (a)

The wallet is still lost (present result), so Present Perfect 'have lost' is correct.

12. “bought” (d)

'Last week' is a specific past time, requiring Past Simple 'bought'.

13. “have lived” (a)

'For ten years' up to now (still living here) uses Present Perfect 'have lived'.

14. “did / go” (d)

'Last summer' is a specific past time, requiring Past Simple 'did you go'.

15. “has / left” (d)

'Just' with a very recent event uses Present Perfect 'has left'.

16. “saw” (a)

'Two days ago' is a specific past time, requiring Past Simple 'saw'.

17. “has / ridden” (d)

'Never...before' describes life experience up to now, using Present Perfect.

18. “was founded” (d)

'In 1990' is a specific past time, requiring Past Simple passive 'was founded'.

19. “have / tasted” (c)

Superlatives with life experience use Present Perfect 'have ever tasted'.

20. “worked” (c)

The job is finished (got another job), so we use Past Simple 'worked' for the completed period.