

PRESENT PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Connect experiences to now and give finished-time details.

1. READ: Trying a climbing wall

Read the conversation. Notice how an experience leads to past-time details.

Ravi: Have you ever tried indoor climbing?

Kate: Yes, I **went** with my brother last summer.

Ravi: How **did** you **find** it? I'm thinking of going on Saturday.

Kate: Harder than I expected, but fun. I **haven't been** back since then.

Ravi: Would you like to come with me?

Kate: Sure. I **bought** climbing shoes after that visit, so I should use them!

2. GRAMMAR: Experience and finished-time details

Present perfect: experience or a present result. Past simple: a finished past time.

Meaning	Form	Example
Experience / result	have/has + past participle	I've tried climbing.
Finished time	past simple	I tried it last summer.
Question	have/has or did + subject	Have you tried it?

Experience then detail: Have you been to Rome? Yes. I went in May.

Finished-time clues: yesterday, last summer, in 2024, two days ago.

Do not use the present perfect with a stated finished past time.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct form. The example answer is bold: I **went** / have gone yesterday.

1. Have / Did you ever eaten sushi?
2. We visited / have visited Paris in 2023.
3. I lost / have lost my keys; I can't get in.
4. When did / have you buy those shoes?
5. She hasn't / didn't finished the report yet.
6. They saw / have seen that film last night.
7. I never went / have never been abroad.
8. Did / Have you enjoy the concert yesterday?

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: A new experience

Use the present perfect or past simple. Write the full verb form.

1. So far, I _____ (try) three different dance classes.
2. Last Saturday, I _____ (go) to my first salsa lesson.
3. I _____ (meet) a friendly couple there that evening.
4. Since that lesson, we _____ (practise) together twice.
5. I _____ (not / learn) all the steps yet.
6. The teacher _____ (show) us a simple routine last week.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite using the words in brackets. Keep the meaning.

Example: This is my first visit. (never / before) **I've never been here before.**

1. This is my first trip abroad. (never / before) _____
2. My last visit to Rome was in May. (visited) _____

3-4: Make questions. Example: You went yesterday. **Did you go yesterday?**

3. You have tried skiing. _____
4. He bought a bike last week. _____

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write about an experience: one sentence with the present perfect and two with finished-time details.

Example: **I've been to Edinburgh. I went last year. I visited the castle.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Ask: **Have you ever tried a new sport or visited an unusual place?**

Follow up: **When did you do it? / Who did you go with? / How was it?**

Swap roles. Listen for the change from experience to past-time details.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: Trying a climbing wall

Sample target language from the conversation:

Ravi: Have you ever tried indoor climbing?

Kate: Yes, I went with my brother last summer.

Ravi: How did you find it? I'm thinking of going on Saturday.

Kate: Harder than I expected, but fun. I haven't been back since then.

Kate: Sure. I bought climbing shoes after that visit, so I should use them!

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Have | 2. visited |
| 3. have lost | 4. did |
| 5. hasn't | 6. saw |
| 7. have never been | 8. Did |

B. COMPLETE: A new experience

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1. have tried | 2. went |
| 3. met | 4. have practised |
| 5. haven't learned / haven't learnt / have not learned / have not learnt | 6. showed |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I've never been abroad before.
2. I visited Rome in May.
3. Have you tried skiing?
4. Did he buy a bike last week?

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I've tried kayaking. I went with friends last July. We spent two hours on the river.

Teacher note: For A3, the present perfect is the intended present-result form; past simple may be natural in some varieties of English. Accept correct contractions and learned/learnt.