

Simple Past and Present Perfect Tense | Common Mistakes

1. Find the mistake and correct it.
2. He has been born in 1985.
3. Did you read 'Wuthering Heights'?
4. Have you seen 'Wuthering Heights' on TV last night?
5. I already spoke to the boss about my holiday.
6. I have an important test tomorrow. I think I prepared enough for the test.
7. Once upon a time there has been a beautiful princess.
8. I can't go on holiday because I broke my leg.
9. We know each other since 1980.
10. There has been an explosion at the castle last night.
11. Tom has worked with us for ten years before he quit in 2010.
12. My parents live in a house they have bought 7 years ago.
13. The man who lives next door wrote a book about his recent trip.
14. I have been listening to the recording several times today.
15. Did you ever taste black quinoa?
16. How many new words did you note down so far in this lesson?
17. Caroline has been visiting Hong Kong five times already.
18. I've seen that programme on television last night.
19. How many times have you been asking for an explanation?
20. My English improved a lot this year.
21. In her previous job, Julie has spoken English a lot.
22. Jack has worked here between 2010 and 2012.
23. How many times did you go to the theatre this year?
24. How long ago has Emma taken up golf?
25. When I was 6 years old, I have got a bicycle for Christmas.
26. So far I didn't make too many mistakes.
27. Tony is still watching TV. He has watched it for 3 hours.
28. I hate red meat. Since I was a child I have been hating it.
29. How long have you attended these classes?
30. There is no lesson today. The teacher has been on holiday.
31. I can relax now. I finished this exercise!

Simple Past and Present Perfect Tense | Common Mistakes (Answers)

1. He **was born** in 1985. (We do not use the **present perfect tense** with expressions that refer to a completely finished period of time.)
2. **Have you read** 'Wuthering Heights'? (When the exact time is not mentioned, we use the **present perfect tense** to refer to actions or situations that happened during a period of time extending up to now.)
3. **Did you see** 'Wuthering Heights' on TV last night? (The **present perfect tense** cannot be used with a definite point of time in the past.)
4. I **have already spoken** to the boss about my birthday. (In British English, indefinite time adverbs like already and yet are mostly used with the **present perfect tense**. In American English, the simple past is also possible in this case.)
5. I have an important test tomorrow. I think I **have prepared** enough for the test. (**Simple past tense** is not possible in this case because we are talking about a test that is still to come.)
6. Once upon a time, there **was** a beautiful princess. (We do not normally use the **present perfect tense** in story-telling.)
7. I can't go on holiday because I **have broken** my leg. (We use the **present perfect tense** to talk about past events that have a bearing on the present.)
8. We **have known** each other since 1980. (We use the **present perfect tense** to refer to a period of time extending up to the present.)
9. There **was** an explosion at the castle last night. (The present perfect tense is not used with completely finished periods of time. Instead we use the **simple past tense**.)
10. Tom **worked** with us for ten years before he quit in 2010.
11. My parents live in a house they **bought** 7 years ago.
12. The man who lives next door **has written** a book about his recent trip.
13. I **have listened** to the recording several times today.
14. **Have you ever tasted** black quinoa?
15. How many new words **have you noted** down so far in this lesson?
16. Caroline **has visited** Hong Kong five times already.
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19. My English **has improved** a lot this year.
20. In her previous job, Julie **spoke** English a lot.
21. Jack **worked** here between 2010 and 2012.
22. How many times **have you gone** to the theatre this year?
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25. So far I **haven't made** too many mistakes.
26. Tony is still watching TV. He **has been watching** it for 3 hours.
27. I hate red meat. Since I was a child I **have hated** it.
28. How long **have you been attending** these classes?
29. There is no lesson today. The teacher **has gone** on holiday.
30. I can relax now. I **have finished** this exercise!