

Present perfect and past (2) (I have done and I did)

A Do not use the present perfect (I have done) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1985 / when I was a child). Use a *past* tense:

- The weather **was** nice yesterday. (not 'has been nice')
- They **arrived** ten minutes ago. (not 'have arrived')
- I ate a lot of sweets **when I was** a child. (not 'have eaten')
- A: **Did** you see the news on television **last night**? (not 'Have you seen')
- B: No, I **went** to bed early. (not 'have gone')

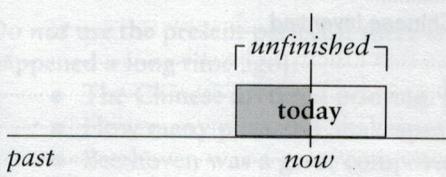
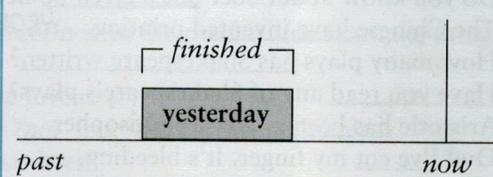
Use a past tense to ask **When...?** or **What time...?:**

- **When** did they arrive? (not 'have they arrived')
- **What time** did you finish work?

Compare:

<p><i>Present perfect</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom has lost his key. He can't get into the house. <p>Here, we are not thinking of the past action. We are thinking of the present result of the action: Tom doesn't have his key <i>now</i>.</p>	<p><i>Past simple</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tom lost his key yesterday. He couldn't get into the house. <p>Here, we are thinking of the action in the past. We don't know from this sentence whether Tom has his key now.</p>
--	--

B Compare present perfect and past:

<p><i>Present perfect (have done)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I've done a lot of work today. <p>We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues <i>from the past until now</i>. For example, today, this week, since 1985.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It hasn't rained this week. • Have you seen Ann this morning? (it is still morning) • Have you seen Ann recently? • I don't know where Ann is. I haven't seen her. (= I haven't seen her recently) • We've been waiting for an hour. (we are still waiting now) • Ian lives in London. He has lived there for seven years. • I have never played golf. (in my life) <p>The present perfect always has a connection with <i>now</i>. See Units 7–12.</p>	<p><i>Past simple (did)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I did a lot of work yesterday. <p>We use the past simple for a <i>finished</i> time in the past. For example, yesterday, last week, from 1985 to 1991.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It didn't rain last week. • Did you see Ann this morning? (it is now afternoon or evening) • Did you see Ann on Sunday? • A: Was Ann at the party on Sunday? • B: I don't think so. I didn't see her. • We waited (or were waiting) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting) • Ian lived in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London. • I didn't play golf when I was on holiday last summer. <p>The past simple tells us only about the past. See Units 5–6.</p>
---	---