



I saw the most incredible documentary on TV last night. It was brilliant. Did you see it too?

Do you mean the one about Antarctica? I didn't see it last night, but I've seen it before. It's great, isn't it?

I've seen so many incredible things on this trip. Things that very few people have ever seen before.

Presentation

Past simple

You use the past simple to talk about finished actions and events in the past when there is a clear reference to a specific time in the past, or when the past time reference is clearly implied or understood:

I saw a great film last night.

Did you see it too? (It is clear in the context that the question refers to *last night*.)

The past simple is often used with a past time expression such as *yesterday*, *last week*, *three years ago*.

Present perfect

You can use the present perfect simple to talk about finished actions and events in the past when there is **no time reference**, or when it's not important, or we don't know exactly when the action happened:

I've seen it before. (It is not important to know exactly when.)

Common expressions that refer to periods of time which continue to the present include: *so far*, *up to now*, *over/ during the last three years*.

Some time expressions can refer to both a period of time that has finished and a period of time that continues in the present: *this morning*, *today*, *this week*, *this month*.

Have you talked to Simon this morning? (It is still morning.)

Did you talk to Simon this morning? (It is the afternoon, the morning has finished.)

ever / never

Use *ever/never* to talk and ask about life experiences when the person is still alive:

Have you ever been to the South Pole? (ever = at any time during your life so far)

I've never been to Asia. (never = at no time during my life so far)

If the person is dead, we use the past simple.

Charles Darwin never went to the North Pole.

Exercises

1 Read about Simon Reeve. Circle the correct form of the verbs.



Simon Reeve is an author and TV presenter. Several of his books and TV programmes ¹won / have won international awards. He ²made / has made a series of fascinating travel documentaries for the BBC. He ³travelled / has travelled to the four corners of the earth. In 2006 he ⁴circled / has circled the earth following the Equator. In 2008 he ⁵did / has done the same again, but this time following the tropic of Capricorn. He ⁶visited / has visited some of the most dangerous places on earth. He ⁷also went / has also been to places no other foreign visitor ⁸ever visited / has ever visited. His taste for travel first ⁹developed / has developed when he and his family ¹⁰drove / have driven across Europe on their summer holidays.

2 Write questions using the present perfect simple or past simple.

- 1 Has he ever won (ever/win) any international awards? – Yes, several.
- 2 Which tropic did he follow (follow) in 2008? – The tropic of Capricorn.
- 3 Where else has he visited (visit)? – Some very dangerous places.
- 4 How many countries has he visited (visit)? – Too many to count!
- 5 When did he first develop (develop) a taste for travelling? – During his summer holidays as a child.

3 Complete the interview using the present perfect simple or past simple of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

- A: What's the most exciting thing you ¹ have ever done (ever/do)?
- B: I ² did (do) so many exciting things. Perhaps the most exciting was when I ³ climbed (climb) to the top of Kilimanjaro. I ⁴ reached (climb) a lot of mountains, but Kilimanjaro was definitely the best. When I ⁵ reached (reach) the top, I just ⁶ wanted (want) to shout. It's amazing standing on a snow-capped mountain looking down over sun-baked Africa.
- A: What ⁷ was (be) the worst moment of your last trip?
- B: When I ⁸ caught (catch) malaria. I ⁹ never felt (never/feel) so ill.
- A: Is there anywhere you ¹⁰ haven't visited (not/visit)?
- B: I ¹¹ never went (never/be) to the Arctic Circle. I'd love to visit the North Pole. I ¹² never saw (never/see) the midnight sun or the Northern Lights. I'd love to do that some day.

4 Choose the correct forms. Then listen and check.

Conversation 1

- A: What's happening about Mum's birthday present? ¹ Have you phoned / Did you phone Dad yet?
- B: No, but ² he has sent / sent me an email earlier. It's OK. He ³ has already bought / already bought the flowers. He ⁴ has been / went to the market first thing this morning to pick them up.

Conversation 2

- C: Oh no, I've just remembered something! Last night I ⁵ had promised / promised Jane that I'd pick her up after class today.
- D: It's OK, don't worry. Tom's just ⁶ been / gone to get her. He's on his way now.

Conversation 3

- E: I think everything's almost ready. I ⁷ have packed / packed the bags, I've got the tickets and the passports. I ⁸ haven't called / didn't call the taxi yet.
- F: Don't worry. I ⁹ have already booked / just booked one. I phoned them last night.