

Present perfect with today, this week and this year

CEFR A2-B1 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

Unfinished time takes the present perfect: today, this week and this year are still open. Finished time takes the past simple: yesterday, last week and in 2019.

The rule

Unfinished time and finished time

- Time words divide into open and closed periods.
- Today, this week, this month and this year are still open.
- Yesterday, last week, last year and in 2019 are closed.
- An open period takes the present perfect; a closed period takes the past simple.

Today and this week in use

- "I have answered ten emails today" means the day is not over.
- "I answered ten emails yesterday" means the day is finished.
- "She has visited three countries this year" is true so far.
- "She visited three countries last year" is a closed total.

This morning, this afternoon and this evening

- The tense depends on whether the period is over.
- At 10 a.m. you say: "I have drunk two coffees this morning."
- At 9 p.m. you say: "I drank two coffees this morning."
- The clock decides the tense, not the words alone.

So far, up to now and recently

- So far and up to now open the period: "We have sold 40 tickets so far."
- Recently and lately can take either tense, depending on the focus.
- Already, yet and just fit the recent open period: "I have just finished."
- A finished time expression overrides the present perfect: "I finished just now."

Questions and negatives

- Questions about an open period take the present perfect: "Have you seen Sam today?"
- Negative answers often switch to the past simple when a finished detail appears.
- "I have not seen him today" keeps the open period.

- "I did not see him yesterday" names a closed period.

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. I ___ twenty emails today.

2. She ___ three countries this year.

3. We ___ forty tickets so far.

4. ___ you seen Sam today?

5. I ___ not had lunch yet.

6. He ___ just finished the report.

7. I ___ two coffees this morning, and it is only 10 a.m.

8. I ___ two coffees this morning, and now it is 9 p.m.

9. She ___ Rome last year.

10. We ___ yesterday morning.

11. They ___ in this city for five years.

12. I ___ him yesterday.

13. I ___ him today.

14. How many books ___ this month?

15. How many books ___ last month?

16. She ___ a lot this year.

17. We ___ the project last week.

18. ___ you finished your homework yet?

19. The shop ___ 30 orders so far today.

20. The shop ___ 30 orders yesterday.

Answer key

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1. **have answered** — Today is unfinished time, so the present perfect have answered is correct.
2. **has visited** — This year is still open, so the present perfect has visited fits.
3. **have sold** — So far opens the period up to now, so the present perfect is correct.
4. **Have** — A question about today takes the present perfect auxiliary have.
5. **have** — Yet belongs to the open period, so the present perfect have not had is correct.
6. **has** — Just works with the present perfect has finished.
7. **have drunk** — The morning is still open at 10 a.m., so the present perfect is correct.
8. **drank** — The morning is over, so the finished time takes the past simple drank.
9. **visited** — Last year is a finished period, so the past simple visited is correct.
10. **met** — Yesterday is finished time, so the past simple met is correct.
11. **have lived** — For five years continues to now, so the present perfect have lived fits.
12. **did not see** — Yesterday is a closed period, so the past simple did not see is correct.
13. **have not seen** — Today is still open, so the present perfect have not seen is correct.
14. **have you read** — This month is unfinished time, so the present perfect is correct.
15. **did you read** — Last month is finished time, so the past simple did you read is correct.
16. **has achieved** — This year is still running, so the present perfect has achieved fits.
17. **finished** — Last week is a closed period, so the past simple finished is correct.
18. **Have** — Yet belongs to the open period, so the present perfect auxiliary have is correct.
19. **has received** — So far today keeps the period open, so the present perfect has received fits.
20. **received** — Yesterday is finished time, so the past simple received is correct.