

**A** Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)

This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.

**Has he lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.

**Did he lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.

He **lost** his key (*past simple*)

but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The *present perfect* (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The *past simple* (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', we don't know whether he has the key now or not. We know only that he lost it at some time in the past.

Compare *present perfect* and *past simple*:

- They **'ve gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
- They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone away)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
- It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

**B** You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- I **'ve repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.
- 'Hannah **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. (*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

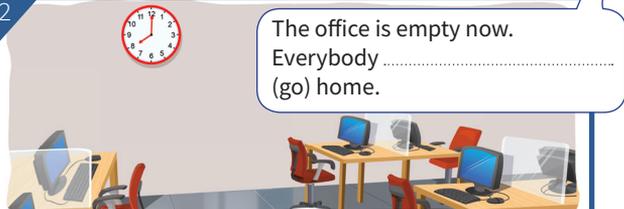
Somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine.  
Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

**C** We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I **'ve burnt** myself.  
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)  
A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.  
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

# Exercises

## 13.1 Complete the sentences. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1 I can't get in. I <u>'ve lost</u> (lose) my key.</p> 	<p>2 The office is empty now. Everybody ..... (go) home.</p> 
<p>3 I meant to call you last night, but I ..... (forget).</p> 	<p>4 Helen ..... (go) to New York for a holiday, but she's back home in London now.</p> 
<p>5 Are you OK? Yes, I ..... (have) a headache, but it's OK now.</p> 	<p>6 Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p> 

## 13.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Did you hear about Sophie? She's given up her job. OK .....
- My mother has grown up in Italy. My mother grew up .....
- How many plays has William Shakespeare written? .....
- I've forgotten his name. Is it Joe or Jack? .....
- Who has invented paper? .....
- Drugs have become a big problem everywhere. .....
- We've washed the car, but now it's dirty again. .....
- Where have you been born? .....
- Ellie has gone shopping. She'll be back in about an hour. .....
- Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity. .....

## 13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- I studied German at school, but ..... most of it now. (I / forget)
- The police ..... three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- What do you think of my English? Do you think .....? (it / improve)
- Are you ready to go? ..... your coffee? (you / finish)
- ..... for a job as a tour guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- Where's my bike? ..... outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- Quick! We need to call an ambulance. .... an accident. (there / be)
- A: I've found my phone.  
B: Oh, good. Where ..... it? (you / find)  
A: ..... at the bottom of my bag. (It / be)
- A: Ben won't be able to play tennis for a while. .... his arm. (He / break)  
B: Oh. How .....? (that / happen)  
A: ..... off a ladder. (He / fall)