**Talking About Experiences**

**Grammar Focus: Present Perfect vs Past Simple**

Have you ever met a famous person? Have you ever eaten sushi?  
These questions are in the **present perfect tense**. We use this tense to talk about experiences in our life — we don’t say when they happened.

**🔹 Present Perfect Tense**

We form it like this:  
**have/has + past participle**

**Examples:**

* I have visited Spain.
* She has tried Chinese food.
* We have never flown in a plane.

The **present perfect** is used to talk about:  
✅ Life experiences (no time)  
✅ Things that have happened recently  
✅ Something that is still true

**Common words with Present Perfect:**

* **ever** → Have you ever seen a lion?
* **never** → I have never eaten octopus.
* **just** → She has just arrived.
* **already** → I’ve already finished.
* **yet** → Have you finished yet? / I haven’t finished yet.

**🔸 Past Simple Tense**

Form: **verb + ed** (regular) or **second form** (irregular)

**Examples:**

* I visited Spain in 2019.
* She tried Chinese food last week.
* We flew to Italy two years ago.

We use the **past simple** when we say **exactly when** something happened.  
✅ A finished action  
✅ A specific time in the past

**Time expressions with Past Simple:**

* yesterday
* last week/month/year
* in 2020
* when I was a child

**🔁 Compare:**

**Present Perfect**:

* I have been to Paris.  
  (You don’t say when — just that it happened.)

**Past Simple**:

* I went to Paris in 2021.  
  (You say exactly when it happened.)

**🎯 Practice: Fill in the blanks**

Use the correct form: **present perfect** or **past simple**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (never/see) a shooting star.
2. My brother \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to London last summer.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (just/finish) her homework.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) last year at a party.
5. Have you ever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (eat) frog legs?

**💬 Now You Try:**

Answer these questions about yourself:

* Have you ever been to another country?
* What did you do last weekend?
* Have you ever broken a bone?
* When did you last go to a restaurant?

**✅ Summary:**

* Use **Present Perfect** to talk about life experiences (no time).
* Use **Past Simple** for specific actions in the past (with time).