

Simple Past vs Present Perfect

B1 Intermediate · Lesson 1 · Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? (8 points)

Read each sentence. Circle **Simple Past** or **Present Perfect**.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. She resigned from her position last April. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 2. He has pursued a career in medicine since graduating. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 3. They investigated the incident thoroughly two years ago. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 4. The company has maintained its market position for over a decade. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 5. She established the charity in 2010. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 6. I have never overcome a challenge as difficult as this one. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 7. Did he dedicate his research to his late professor? | Simple Past / Present Perfect |
| 8. She has achieved more this year than in any previous year. | Simple Past / Present Perfect |

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

- He ____ his goal of running a marathon last October.
achieved / has achieved / has achieve
- She ____ her career to environmental research since 2015.
dedicated / has dedicated / did dedicate
- They ____ the organisation ____ before the funding was secured.
established / had / did / establish / established / —
- The committee ____ the allegations three months ago.
investigated / has investigated / have investigated
- ____ she ever ____ her fear of public speaking?
Did / overcome / Has / overcome / Did / overcame
- He ____ his ambition to become a director ____ twenty years.
has pursued / for / pursued / since / did pursue / for
- The foundation ____ strong links with local communities since it opened.

maintained / has maintained / did maintain

8. She ____ just ____ from her senior role at the firm.

has / resigned / did / resign / have / resigned

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to its meaning (a–h). Write the letter in the box.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. She resigned from her post last month. | [____] |
| 2. He has pursued this ambition for fifteen years. | [____] |
| 3. They investigated the fraud in 2021. | [____] |
| 4. I have never overcome such a serious setback. | [____] |
| 5. She established the institute before she retired. | [____] |
| 6. He has maintained his position since the merger. | [____] |
| 7. Did she dedicate the book to her mentor? | [____] |
| 8. We have achieved a great deal this quarter. | [____] |

- d. A life experience — this has not happened at any point so far.
a. She left her job at a specific point in the past.
g. A question about a past action at a specific, finished moment.
h. Successes in a period that has not yet ended.
b. The ambition began in the past and continues now.
f. A situation that started in the past and is still true now.
c. An inquiry that took place at a named time and is now closed.
e. Something created at a point in the past, now finished.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- The committee _____ the matter last spring. (*investigate*)
- She _____ her entire career to this cause. (*dedicate*)
- _____ a goal that seemed impossible? (*pursue*)
- He _____ from the board three weeks ago. (*resign*)
- They _____ their independence for over thirty years. (*maintain*)
- _____ the organisation before or after the war? (*establish*)
- I _____ a setback of this magnitude before. (*overcome*)
- She _____ everything she set out to do this year. (*achieve*)

Exercise 5 · Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. She / resigned / from / her / post / last / April

2. He / has / pursued / this / ambition / for / fifteen / years

3. Did / they / investigate / the / allegations / last / year

4. I / have / never / overcome / a / challenge / like / this

5. She / established / the / charity / before / she / retired

6. The / company / has / maintained / its / position / since / 2010

7. He / dedicated / his / research / to / his / professor / last / year

8. We / have / achieved / a / great / deal / this / quarter

Exercise 6 · Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

They have ____ strong community links since they launched. • She has ____ more this term than in the whole of last year. • She ____ from the board at the emergency meeting last week. • He ____ his doctoral thesis to his late supervisor. • I ____ never ____ such a significant professional obstacle before. • She ____ the institute in a small office back in 1998. • The inquiry ____ the case thoroughly in 2019. • He ____ this research for over a decade and still continues.

Completed action — specific finished time	Connected to the present — no specific time

Exercise 7 · Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct word from the brackets to complete each gap.

Dr Marsh: I see you (resigned / have resigned / resign) from your post at the university last year. What (led / has led / have led) you to that decision?

Dr Osei: I (have pursued / pursued / did pursue) this area of research for twelve years and I felt it was time to (pursue / pursued / pursuing) new opportunities.

Dr Marsh: (Have / Did / Do) you ever (considered / consider / considering) such a significant career change before?

Dr Osei: No, never. But I (have realised / realised / realise) that the obstacles I (overcame / have overcome / overcome) in the past (prepared / have prepared / has prepared) me well for this.

Dr Marsh: That is an admirable attitude. The institute (has maintained / maintained / did maintain) its reputation for independence since it was founded.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

Simple Past vs Present Perfect · B1 Lesson 1

This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. She resigned from her position last April. → **SP**
2. He has pursued a career in medicine since graduating. → **PP**
3. They investigated the incident thoroughly two years ago. → **SP**
4. The company has maintained its market position for over a decade. → **PP**
5. She established the charity in 2010. → **SP**
6. I have never overcome a challenge as difficult as this one. → **PP**
7. Did he dedicate his research to his late professor? → **SP**
8. She has achieved more this year than in any previous year. → **PP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **achieved**
2. **has dedicated**
3. **achieved**
4. **investigated**
5. **Has / overcome**
6. **has pursued / for**
7. **has maintained**
8. **has / resigned**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. She resigned from her post last month. → **a**
2. He has pursued this ambition for fifteen years. → **b**
3. They investigated the fraud in 2021. → **c**
4. I have never overcome such a serious setback. → **d**
5. She established the institute before she retired. → **e**
6. He has maintained his position since the merger. → **f**
7. Did she dedicate the book to her mentor? → **g**
8. We have achieved a great deal this quarter. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. The committee **investigated** the matter last spring.
2. She **has dedicated** her entire career to this cause.
3. **Have you ever pursued** a goal that seemed impossible?
4. He **resigned** from the board three weeks ago.
5. They **have maintained** their independence for over thirty years.
6. **Did she establish** the organisation before or after the war?
7. I **have never overcome** a setback of this magnitude before.
8. She **has achieved** everything she set out to do this year.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. She resigned from her post last April .
2. He has pursued this ambition for fifteen years .
3. Did they investigate the allegations last year ?
4. I have never overcome a challenge like this .
5. She established the charity before she retired .
6. The company has maintained its position since 2010 .
7. He dedicated his research to his professor last year .
8. We have achieved a great deal this quarter .

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Completed action — specific finished time	Connected to the present — no specific time
She ____ from the board at the emergency meeting last week.	He ____ this research for over a decade and still continues.
The inquiry ____ the case thoroughly in 2019.	They have ____ strong community links since they launched.
She ____ the institute in a small office back in 1998.	I ____ never ____ such a significant professional obstacle before.
He ____ his doctoral thesis to his late supervisor.	She has ____ more this term than in the whole of last year.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Dr Marsh: I see you **resigned** from your post at the university last year. What **led** you to that decision?

Dr Osei: I **have pursued** this area of research for twelve years and I felt it was time to **pursue** new opportunities.

Dr Marsh: **Have** you ever **considered** such a significant career change before?

Dr Osei: No, never. But I **have realised** that the obstacles I **overcame** in the past **have prepared** me well for this.

Dr Marsh: That is an admirable attitude. The institute **has maintained** its reputation for independence since it was founded.