

Simple Past vs Present Perfect

B1 Intermediate · Lesson 4 · Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 56

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? (8 points)

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

1. The authorities demolished the building last autumn. Simple Past / Present Perfect

2. This discovery has fascinated historians since it was first announced. Simple Past / Present Perfect

3. She was exiled from her homeland during the conflict. Simple Past / Present Perfect

4. He has persevered with the project despite repeated setbacks. Simple Past / Present Perfect

5. Nobody anticipated the scale of the crisis in advance. Simple Past / Present Perfect

6. Industrial waste has contaminated the river for decades. Simple Past / Present Perfect

7. His remarks provoked a furious reaction at the summit last week. Simple Past / Present Perfect

8. The revelations have undermined confidence in the institution since they emerged. Simple Past / Present Perfect

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice (8 points)

Circle the correct verb form.

1. The old factory ____ to make way for the new development last spring.
demolished / has been demolished / have demolished

2. This case ____ legal scholars ____ it first came to public attention.
has fascinated / since / fascinated / when / did fascinate / since

3. The dissident ____ during the military government of the 1970s.
exiled / was exiled / has been exiled

4. She ____ with her research despite a lack of institutional support.
persevered / has persevered / did persevere

5. Nobody ____ that the policy would cause such widespread disruption.
anticipated / has anticipated / have anticipated

6. Runoff from the industrial site ____ the local water supply ____ years.
has contaminated / for / contaminated / since / did contaminate / for

7. His intervention ____ an already fragile diplomatic relationship.

provoked / has provoked / did provoke

8. The leaks ____ public trust in the government ____ they first appeared.

have undermined / since / undermined / when / did undermine / since

Exercise 3 · Matching (8 points)

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

1. The council demolished the hall in 2017. [____]

2. This question has fascinated philosophers for centuries. [____]

3. She was exiled from her country after the coup. [____]

4. He has persevered with his research despite every obstacle. [____]

5. Nobody anticipated the extent of the disaster. [____]

6. Chemicals have contaminated the site since the plant closed. [____]

7. His speech provoked outrage at the conference last year. [____]

8. The scandal has undermined trust in the system ever since. [____]

g. A specific reaction caused at a known, finished event in the past.

c. Removal from a homeland that occurred at a finished point in the past.

b. Something that has held continuous interest from the past to the present.

d. Continued effort that started in the past and is still going on now.

h. A continuous erosion of confidence that began at a point and continues.

f. Ongoing pollution that started at a point in the past and continues now.

a. A demolition that took place at a specific named time in the past.

e. A failure to foresee something at a specific finished moment.

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill (8 points)

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

1. The building _____ to make way for the new development last year.
(*demolish*)

2. This mystery _____ researchers since the first artefacts were discovered.
(*fascinate*)

3. She _____ from her country during the political upheaval. (*exile*)

4. He _____ with the study despite a complete lack of funding. (*persevere*)

5. No one _____ the severity of the financial collapse. (*anticipate*)

6. Industrial runoff _____ the groundwater for the past thirty years.
(*contaminate*)

7. His comments _____ a significant diplomatic incident last month. (*provoke*)

8. The leaked documents _____ confidence in the process since they were published. (*undermine*)

Exercise 5 · Word Order (8 points)

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

1. The / council / demolished / the / building / last / autumn

2. This / discovery / has / fascinated / historians / since / it / was / announced

3. She / was / exiled / during / the / military / government

4. He / has / persevered / despite / repeated / setbacks

5. Nobody / anticipated / the / scale / of / the / crisis

6. Industrial / waste / has / contaminated / the / river / for / decades

7. His / remarks / provoked / a / furious / reaction / last / week

8. The / revelations / have / undermined / confidence / since / they / emerged

Exercise 6 · Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column.

The revelations ____ public trust in the institution since they surfaced. • The dissident ____ from his homeland during the authoritarian period. • She ____ with her legal challenge and ____ a landmark ruling this year. • This debate ____ scholars and philosophers for well over a century. • His intervention ____ a walkout by three delegations at the summit. • Toxic waste ____ the soil in this area since the factory closed. • The old courthouse ____ to make way for a modern complex in 2014. • No analyst ____ the rapid collapse of the currency in that quarter.

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 Naomi Ferris: Professor, this site (has fascinated / fascinated / did fascinate) archaeologists since it was first excavated over fifty years ago.

Professor Kwan: Indeed. When I first (arrived / have arrived / arriving) here in the nineties, the full significance of the find was not yet clear.

Dr Naomi Ferris: (Did / Have / Do) the original team ever (anticipate / anticipated / anticipating) that the site might be contaminated by earlier industrial activity?

Professor Kwan: Not initially. But the evidence (has suggested / suggested / suggest) that the groundwater (had contaminated / contaminated / has contaminated) the lower strata for decades before the dig began.

Dr Naomi Ferris: And (has / did / do) this (undermined / undermine / undermining) the integrity of the earlier findings?

Professor Kwan: To some extent, yes. But the team (has persevered / persevered / did persevere) with the analysis and the core conclusions remain valid.

TEACHER ANSWER KEY — DO NOT DISTRIBUTE TO STUDENTS

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This answer key is for teacher use only.

Exercise 1 · Which Tense? — Answers

1. The authorities demolished the building last autumn. → **SP**
2. This discovery has fascinated historians since it was first announced. → **PP**
3. She was exiled from her homeland during the conflict. → **SP**
4. He has persevered with the project despite repeated setbacks. → **PP**
5. Nobody anticipated the scale of the crisis in advance. → **SP**
6. Industrial waste has contaminated the river for decades. → **PP**
7. His remarks provoked a furious reaction at the summit last week. → **SP**
8. The revelations have undermined confidence in the institution since they emerged. → **PP**

Exercise 2 · Multiple Choice — Answers

1. **demolished**
2. **has fascinated / since**
3. **was exiled**
4. **has persevered**
5. **anticipated**
6. **has contaminated / for**
7. **provoked**
8. **have undermined / since**

Exercise 3 · Matching — Answers

1. The council demolished the hall in 2017. → **a**
2. This question has fascinated philosophers for centuries. → **b**
3. She was exiled from her country after the coup. → **c**
4. He has persevered with his research despite every obstacle. → **d**
5. Nobody anticipated the extent of the disaster. → **e**
6. Chemicals have contaminated the site since the plant closed. → **f**
7. His speech provoked outrage at the conference last year. → **g**
8. The scandal has undermined trust in the system ever since. → **h**

Exercise 4 · Gap Fill — Answers

1. The building **was demolished** to make way for the new development last year.
2. This mystery **has fascinated** researchers since the first artefacts were discovered.
3. She **was exiled** from her country during the political upheaval.
4. He **has persevered** with the study despite a complete lack of funding.
5. No one **anticipated** the severity of the financial collapse.
6. Industrial runoff **has contaminated** the groundwater for the past thirty years.
7. His comments **provoked** a significant diplomatic incident last month.
8. The leaked documents **have undermined** confidence in the process since they were published.

Exercise 5 · Word Order — Answers

1. **The council demolished the building last autumn .**
2. **This discovery has fascinated historians since it was announced .**
3. **She was exiled during the military government .**
4. **He has persevered despite repeated setbacks .**
5. **Nobody anticipated the scale of the crisis .**
6. **Industrial waste has contaminated the river for decades .**
7. **His remarks provoked a furious reaction last week .**
8. **The revelations have undermined confidence since they emerged .**

Exercise 6 · Word Sort — Answers

Completed action — specific finished time	Connected to the present — no specific time
The old courthouse ____ to make way for a modern complex in 2014.	This debate ____ scholars and philosophers for well over a century.
The dissident ____ from his homeland during the authoritarian period.	She ____ with her legal challenge and ____ a landmark ruling this year.
No analyst ____ the rapid collapse of the currency in that quarter.	Toxic waste ____ the soil in this area since the factory closed.
His intervention ____ a walkout by three delegations at the summit.	The revelations ____ public trust in the institution since they surfaced.

Exercise 7 · Conversation — Answers

Dr Naomi Ferris: Professor, this site **has fascinated** archaeologists since it was first excavated over fifty years ago.

Professor Kwan: Indeed. When I first **arrived** here in the nineties, the full significance of the find was not yet clear.

Dr Naomi Ferris: **Did** the original team ever **anticipate** that the site might be contaminated by earlier industrial activity?

Professor Kwan: Not initially. But the evidence **has suggested** that the groundwater **contaminated** the lower strata for decades before the dig began.

Dr Naomi Ferris: And **has** this **undermined** the integrity of the earlier findings?

Professor Kwan: To some extent, yes. But the team **has persevered** with the analysis and the core conclusions remain valid.