



14 Present perfect vs past simple

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- 1 Who is your oldest friend?
- 2 How did you meet?
- 3 How long have you known them?
- 4 When did you last see them?
- 5 What did you talk about?

Listening: Old friends

2  2.17 Listen to two friends who are meeting after a long time. How do they know each other?

3  Who has done these things? Write J (Janet), D (Daniel), E (Ethel). Then listen again and check.

- 1 _____ hasn't changed.
- 2 _____ has always wanted to go to Sardinia.
- 3 _____ has worked abroad.
- 4 _____ has become a software engineer.
- 5 _____ has changed their name.
- 6 _____ has seen Ethel on television lots of times but didn't recognize her.

Grammar: Present perfect vs past simple

4 Read the notes in the grammar box and choose the correct words to complete the rules.

5 Think of some things you have wanted to do and some things you have done in your life. Write down these things.

- 1 A country you've always wanted to go to and an interesting place you've actually been to.
- 2 A movie you've always wanted to see and a movie you've already seen.
- 3 A book you've always wanted to read and a book you've actually read.
- 4 Someone famous you've always wanted to meet and someone interesting you've actually met.
- 5 Something you've always wanted to learn how to do and something you've already learnt how to do.
- 6 Something that sounds fun that you've always wanted to try and something that's fun that you've already tried.



Present perfect vs past simple

1 We use the present perfect to talk about situations that have continued up to now.

We've been married for five years.

2 We use the past simple for finished actions that have no connection with the present.

I was a tour guide in Sardinia. (I'm not a tour guide now.)

I met Carlo in Sardinia. (I'm not meeting him now.)

3 We also use the present perfect to describe life experiences.

I've always wanted to go to Sardinia.

I've watched her show lots of times.

Have you ever seen Selima Sanchez on TV?

Rules:

1 We use the present perfect to talk about a definite / an indefinite time in the past.

She's changed her name.

Have you heard from Ethel?

2 We use the past simple to refer to a definite / an indefinite time in the past.

When I left university, I got a job with a holiday company.

I became a software engineer.

>> For more information on the present perfect vs past simple, see page 115.

6 Work in pairs or small groups. Find out if your partner(s) have ever done things on your list. Ask more questions about the things your partner(s) have done. When you start talking about a definite time, use the past simple.

A: Have you ever been to Thailand?

B: No, I haven't. Have you?

A: Yes, I've been twice.

B: Oh, where did you go exactly?

A: I went to Bangkok, Phuket and Chang Mai.