

GRAMMAR REFERENCE

1 CITIES

PERFECT FORMS

Present perfect simple

The present perfect simple shows that something happened or started before now. There is usually a present result.

*The Guggenheim Museum **has become** one of the most famous buildings in the world.* (= The change happened before now.)

*There **have been** some voices of opposition.*

Compare these present perfect and present simple forms:

*They **have invested** a lot of money in the area.* (= before now, we don't know if it's continuing)

*They **invest** a lot of money in the area.* (= generally)

*I've **had** a car for six years.* (= from six years ago to now)

*I **have** a car.* (= a present fact, time unknown)

Past perfect simple

The past perfect simple emphasises that something happened or started before another event or time in the past.

*The slum **had** effectively **created** a barrier between the affluent north and the more deprived south of the city.* (= before it was demolished)

*Up until the early 80s, Bilbao **had been dominated** by steel plants and shipbuilding.* (= before the 1980s)

Compare these past perfect and past simple forms:

*He **had gone** when I arrived.* (= He left before I arrived.)

*He **went** when I arrived.* (= First I arrived and at that moment he left.)

*He **said he'd been** a teacher.* (= When we spoke, he no longer taught.)

*He **said he was** a teacher.* (= When we spoke, he still taught.)

We also use the past perfect simple to refer to hypothetical events in the past (i.e. before now).

*If other mayors **hadn't secured** the city's finances before him, ...* (= The finances were secure.)

*I wish I **hadn't done** it, but I did.*

will have done (future perfect) and other modals

After a modal verb, we use infinitives without *to*. The perfect form is *will / may / should + have + past participle*.

*If we ever achieve a successful city for children, we **will have built** the perfect city for all citizens.* (= Before achieving it, you have to build it!)

*Other cities **may have failed** because they didn't take up the other strands of Bilbao's regeneration project.* (= before now; may shows possibility here)

*I **should have finished** work by six, but I'll call you if I haven't.*

Participle clauses

Sometimes we need an *-ing* form to form a participle clause.

***Having cleared** one space, Peñalosa's administration then expropriated the land of a private country club.* (= After they cleared / had cleared ...)

Compare these sentences:

*I was disappointed when I got there, **having read** so many good things about it.*

***Reading** about it now makes me want to go there.*

Exercise 1

Complete the pairs of sentences with the verbs in bold – one sentence with a perfect form, one not.

- not / call**
 - If I _____ by six, it means I'm not coming.
 - As a rule, I _____ anyone after nine at night.
- be done up**
 - It _____ a few years ago, but the place is already falling apart.
 - It used to be very run-down, but it _____.
- be struck**
 - It was the second time the city _____ by an earthquake.
 - Our house _____ by lightning last year.
- change**
 - I doubt anything _____ by this time next year.
 - I think things _____ if the Freedom Party wins power in the election.
- consult**
 - They should _____ the people who live here to find out what they want.
 - They should _____ more widely, but they just weren't interested in what others wanted and that's why the regeneration failed.
- be**
 - I wish he _____ here now.
 - It sounds like you had a great time. I wish I _____ there.
- spend**
 - _____ millions on the project, the city centre still looks awful!
 - _____ any amount of time there, you quickly start to feel stressed.
- undergo**
 - Following the disaster, the city _____ a huge transformation.
 - When the disaster struck, the city _____ a number of changes already.

Infinitive form

Sometimes we use an infinitive with *to* after certain verbs. Compare the perfect and simple forms:

*I **seem to have lost** my wallet.* (= before now)

*He **seems to lose** things all the time.* (= generally)

*He **is believed to have killed** several people.*

*He **is believed to be** dangerous.*

Exercise 2

Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence using the word given. Do not change the word given. You must use between three and five words, including the word given.

- I don't think my flight will get in in time to catch the last train home.
LEFT
The last train _____ the time my flight gets in.
- The first time I saw anything like that was when I went to Mumbai.
NEVER
I _____ like that before I went to Mumbai.
- I'm not sure I can give you any advice as it's so long since I've been there.
RECENTLY
Not _____, I don't think I can give you any advice.

- When the current government came to power, they largely continued the previous government's policies.

INITIATED

The current government's policies _____ by the previous one.

- People were moved out of the area before the storm hit so there were very few casualties.

EVACUATED

There would have been a lot more casualties if _____ before the storm.

- As far as I can tell, things are much better than they were when I was there last.

IMPROVED

Things appear _____ since my last visit.

DID YOU KNOW?

We sometimes use *will / will have* to refer to the present to talk about what we believe.

*Many people **will have visited** the city just to see it and found a flourishing city with a vibrant nightlife. However, fewer **will be aware** of the profound change that the gallery symbolises.*

A: *Where are you from?*

B: *You **won't know** it. / You **won't have heard** of it. It's tiny.*

2 RELATIONSHIPS

WOULD

Conditionals

Would introduces the hypothetical result or consequence in a conditional sentence.

*I probably **would've** stayed with him if he'd apologised.*

*If they'd intervened, the situation **would be** a lot worse now.*

*If it hadn't been for my friend Andrew, I **would** never have got together with Ana.*

Would have + past participle refers back to a hypothetical past situation. Note that compared to *might*, *would* shows more certainty here.

Habits

We can use *would* instead of *used to* or the past simple to talk about habits in the past.

When he was a toddler, I'd do the childcare most days.

Before the anger management classes, he'd often get into unnecessary confrontations.

Note we also use *would* with *wish* to talk about present habits we (don't) want people to have.

I wish he'd show a bit more commitment.

*I wish they **wouldn't** interfere.*

Past of will

We use *would* as the past form of *will*. It tends to follow verbs such as *knew*, *said*, *thought*, *promised*, *threatened*, etc.

*I knew it **would** come to no good, but you can't really interfere, can you?*

*They said it **would** be miserable today, but it's actually turned out quite nice.*

She promised she'd come, so I'm sure she'll be here soon.

We often use *won't* to refuse to do something and so we use *would* to report it. Notice that this can also be applied to animals and machines!

*I remember once I asked him to change desks and he just **wouldn't** – just refused point blank.*

*For some reason, the car **wouldn't** start this morning so I'm waiting for the breakdown people.*

Advice

We use *I'd* to give advice. It sometimes goes with expressions such as *if I were you*, *if I were in your shoes*, etc., but it is more often used on its own.

He should obviously be punished, but after that I'd still give him another chance.

I'd consider talking it over with a therapist.

We sometimes use *would* in other advice expressions.

I'd advise you to see a therapist.

I'd recommend taking a class.

You'd be best talking it over with someone.

Being more cautious with opinions

We often use *I would / I wouldn't say* to introduce our opinions about people or a situation. Note we can also sometimes use *I would've said / I wouldn't have said* in the same way. These structures show more caution.

*I **would say** he has a stubborn streak and he's been prone to outbursts and answering back.*

*I **wouldn't say** it's a disaster – just a slight setback.*

*I **wouldn't have said** it's a big problem.*

Sometimes we use *would* to make a prediction or speculation sound more cautious. Compare the examples to the less cautious versions in brackets:

*Although he's a little frail now, I'd **expect** him to recover well.* (I expect him to ...)

*I **don't imagine** there'd be a problem with that.* (I don't think there'll be a problem ...)

*I'd **hope** to be back by six.* (I hope to be back by six.)

*I **would think** / I **would've thought** they'd get married at some point.* (I think they will get married ...)

We also sometimes do this with requests because it can sound more polite.

***Would it be** OK to leave early?* (Is it OK to leave early?)

***Would you mind** helping me with this?* (Do you mind helping me with this?)

Exercise 1

Use *would*, the word in bold and up to four other words to complete the second sentence so it has the same meaning as the first sentence.

- I'm completely with you on that.
AGREE
I _____ about that.
- If you ask me, it wasn't his fault.
SAY
I _____ to blame.
- We made several offers, but they rejected all of them.
NOT
They _____ our offers.
- I think the best thing to do is walk away.
INVOLVED
I _____ if I were you.
- He's always saying nasty things behind people's backs.
BITCH
I wish _____ behind their backs.
- They shouldn't let him stay if he's going to behave like that.
KICK
If he behaved like that in my house, _____.
- I'm unlikely to replace it.
IMAGINE
I _____ a new one.
- It shouldn't take more than a week to arrive.
EXPECT
_____ get here before next Friday.