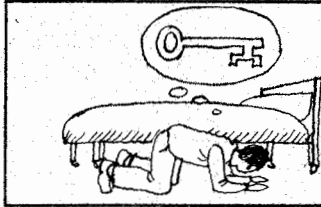


# UNIT 20

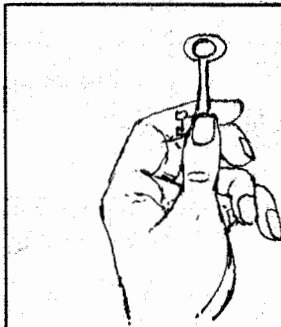
## Present perfect (**I have done**) or past simple (**I did**)? (1)

a) Study this example situation:



This is Tom. He is looking for his key. He can't find it.  
He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)  
This means that he **hasn't** got his key now.

Five minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key.  
This means that he **has** got his key now.  
**Has he lost** his key? (*present perfect*)  
No, he **hasn't**. He **has found** it.  
**Did he lose** his key? (*past simple*)  
Yes, he **did**.  
He **lost** (*past simple*) his key but now he **has found** (*present perfect*) it.

The present perfect (**has lost**) always tells us something about the present. 'He **has lost** his key' tells us that he **hasn't** got it now (see Unit 13). The past simple (**lost**) tells us only about the past. If we say 'He **lost** his key', we don't know whether he has it now or not. We only know that he lost it at some time in the past. Here are some more examples:

- He **grew** a beard but now he **has shaved** it off. (= He **hasn't** got a beard now.)
- Prices **fell** but now they **have risen** again. (= They are high now.)

b) Do not use the present perfect (**I have done**) for happenings or actions which are not connected with the present (for example, historical events):

- The Chinese **invented** printing. (*not 'have invented'*)
- Shakespeare **wrote** *Hamlet*. (*not 'has written'*)
- How many symphonies **did** Beethoven **compose**? (*not 'has ... composed'*)

c) We use the present perfect (**I have done**) to give new information or to announce a recent happening (see Unit 13). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple (**I did**):

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself!
- B: How **did** you do that? (*not 'have you done'*)
- A: I **touch**ed a hot dish. (*not 'have touched'*)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** milk on the carpet.
- B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't** do it. (*not 'hasn't been ... haven't done'*)
- A: I wonder who it was then. (*not 'who it has been'*)

For more information about the present perfect and past simple see Unit 21.

# UNIT 20 Exercises

**20.1** In this exercise you have to read the situation and then write a sentence. Use the verbs given in brackets. Read the example carefully first.

Example: Ten minutes ago Tom lost his key. Now he has it in his hand.

(lose / find) Tom lost his key but now he has found it.

- 1 I lost a lot of weight but now I am too heavy again.  
(lose weight / put on weight) I ..... but now I .....
- 2 She went to Australia but now she is back in Britain again.  
(go / come back) She ..... but now .....
- 3 Last year Kevin bought a car. Now it belongs to someone else.  
(buy / sell) .....
- 4 The police arrested the man but now he is at home again.  
(arrest / release) .....
- 5 Bill cut his hair. Now it is long again.  
(cut / grow) .....
- 6 The prisoner escaped from the prison. Now he is back in prison.  
(escape / be caught) .....

**20.2** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones which are wrong.

Examples: Have you heard? Suzanne has got married!

RIGHT.....

The Chinese have invented printing.

WRONG. - Invented

- 1 Who has written the play *Hamlet*? .....
- 2 Aristotle has been a Greek philosopher. ....
- 3 Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding. ....
- 4 Look at George! He had a haircut. ....
- 5 My grandparents got married in London. ....
- 6 Einstein was the physicist who has developed the theory of relativity. ....

**20.3** In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form.

Example: A: Look! Somebody ..... has spilt (spill) milk on the carpet.

B: Well, it ..... wasn't (not/be) me. I ..... didn't do (not/do) it.

A: I wonder who it ..... was (be) then.

- 1 A: Your hair looks different. .... (you/have) a haircut?  
B: Yes.  
A: ..... (you/cut) it yourself?  
B: No, Ann ..... (cut) it for me.
- 2 A: Did you hear about Ben? He ..... (break) his leg.  
B: Really? How ..... (that/happen)?  
A: He ..... (fall) off a ladder.