

Instructions

Groups: 3 or 4 **Copies:** 1 per group

Cut and fold the strips, and divide them equally. Students take it in turns to show the left (question side) of their strip. The first student who can correct the sentence, choose the correct verb form or identify the sentence as correct, 'wins' the strip.

-- FOLD

I've <u>had / been having</u> this phone for two years.	I've had this phone for two years.
I've been to Australia last year.	I went to Australia last year.
She's been to lunch. She'll be back in an hour.	She's gone to lunch. She'll be back in an hour.
I was living in the country when I was a child.	I lived / used to live in the country when I was a child.
I have worked for an insurance company from 2010 - 2012.	I worked for an insurance company from 2010 - 2012.
I am working for the same company since I left school.	I have worked / have been working for the same company since I left school.
When I was a child, we <u>didn't play / weren't playing / didn't use to play</u> computer games.	When I was a child we didn't play / didn't use to play computer games.
I <u>used to have / would have / was having</u> long hair when I was little.	I used to have long hair when I was little.
In my last job they <u>made / used to make / would make</u> us do overtime until seven every day.	All are possible.
When our new teacher walked into the room, I knew I saw her before.	When our new teacher walked into the room, I knew I had seen her before.
I am living here all my life.	I have lived here all my life.
I'm tired. I <u>had / have had / had had</u> a busy day.	I'm tired. I have had a busy day.

Explanatory notes

I've **had** this phone for two years.

State / action verbs

Have is a state verb so it can't take a continuous form.

I **went** to Australia last year.

Present perfect / past simple

The action is complete and happened at a specific time in the past - last year.

She's **gone** to lunch. She'll be back in an hour.

Been / gone

With the present perfect tense, *gone* means she's there now; *been* means she isn't there now.

I **lived / used to live** in the country when I was a child.

Past situations (states)

This is a past situation. The past simple can show past states. *Used to* can show a past state that no longer exists.

I **worked** for an insurance company from 2010 - 2012.

Present perfect / past simple

This is complete and happened at a specific time in the past. It doesn't matter that the specific time is a period.

I **have worked / have been working** for the same company since I left school.

Present perfect for unfinished states and actions up until now

With some verbs like *live* and *work* (be employed) there is often little difference in meaning between simple and continuous forms.

Explanatory notes

When I was a child we **didn't play / didn't use to play** computer games.

Past states and past habits
This is a past habit. *Both used to and the past simple can show past habits and past states. (The Past continuous shows unfinished actions in the past.)*

I **used to have** long hair when I was little.

Past states and past habits
This is a past state. *Used to can show past states and past habits; would can only show past habits.*

In my last job they made / used to make / would make us do overtime until seven every day.

Past habits
This is a past habit. *Used to and the past simple tense can both show past states and past habits; would can show past habits.*

When our new teacher walked into the room, I knew I **had seen** her before.

Past tenses
The past perfect makes it clear that see happened before *know*.

I **have lived** here all my life.

Present perfect for unfinished states and actions up until now
With *live* and *work* (be employed) there is usually little difference between simple and continuous forms. For permanent situations ('all my life'), however, the simple tense is more common.

I'm tired. I **have had** a busy day.

Present perfect for unfinished time periods
The time period (today) is not yet finished, so the present perfect is used.