

# Perfect aspect - correction cards

1 What have you eaten today?

Correct. Present perfect. An action in an unfinished time period (today).

2 A window was broken and the door was open. Someone broke in.

Wrong. *Someone had broken in.* This happened before you noticed the door was open.

3 You look tired. What did you do?

Wrong. *What have you been doing?* We are interested in the action that caused a present result, not whether it was complete.

4 I've learned English since I was at kindergarten.

Wrong. *I've been learning English since kindergarten.* 'I've learned' suggests it is complete - there's no more to learn.

5 Mark and Tina have dated for six months.

Wrong. *Mark and Tina have been dating for six months.* The focus is on duration / repetition, not completion.

6 Before my son was born, I'd never been thinking I'd enjoy being a mother.

Wrong. *I'd never thought I'd enjoy.* 'Think' is a stative verb here.

7 She's been making cakes all morning.

Correct. The focus is on repetition and duration.

8 What have you been doing at work this morning?

Possible. The continuous tense puts the focus on the action. *What have you done...?* is also possible, but now the focus is on completion.

9 Careful where you put your feet. I've broken a bowl and there's glass everywhere.

Correct. This is a recent action with a present result. The focus is on completion.

10 We've been going to the same restaurant on Sundays since I was a child.

Correct. The focus is on repetition and duration.

11 I was exhausted. I was working since 7 a.m.

Wrong. *I had been working.* The action *work* happened before and explains why you were exhausted.

12 I had gone to the shops before I came to the lesson.

Wrong. I went to the shops before I came to the lesson. Times in clauses linked by *before* and *after* are usually clear with the past simple tense.

13

By the time I woke up, my sister already left for work so I couldn't tell her the news.

Wrong... my sister had already left... She left before I woke up. But because

14

I've been making over twenty calls today.

Wrong. I've made over twenty calls today. When we mention the number of things completed, we need present perfect simple.

15

Oh no! The photocopier has broken down again. That's the third time today. I've told them to get a new one for ages.

Wrong. I've been telling... This is a repeated action.

16

By the time the waiter took our order, we had been waiting half an hour.

Correct. By the time is used to show something was delayed or took a long time.

17

How many hours had you worked last week?

Wrong. How many hours did you work last week?

18

Her eyes were red and it was clear she had cried.

Wrong... it was clear she had been crying. The past perfect continuous focuses on the the action.

19

Where had you worked before you had started this job?

Wrong. Where did you work...? Times in clauses linked by 'before' and 'after' are usually clear with the past simple tense.

20

How do you think everyday life will improve by the time you are seventy?

Wrong. How do you think everyday life will have improved... Time clauses beginning with by nearly always take a perfect tense

21

How do you think your English will have improved by the end of this course?

Correct. Time clauses beginning with by are often used with perfect tenses.

22

Which places had you visited by the time you were 18?

Correct. Correct. Time clauses beginning with by are often used with perfect tenses.

23

This time next year I will have worked here for 10 years.

Correct. I will have been working... is also possible but switches the emphasis from completion to duration.

24

By the time the emergency services arrived, the boat had sunk and half the passengers had drowned.

Correct. By the time is used to show something was delayed or took a long time.