



GRAMMAR PRACTICE

Present Perfect and Past Simple in Travel

Transport and Travel | Tense choice | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner. You may already use this grammar without noticing it.

No.	Question
1	Describe a place you have visited.
2	Talk about a journey you took recently.
3	Name a type of transport you have never tried.
4	Describe a travel problem that happened to you.

2. Grammar in context

Read the text. The bold phrases show the grammar used in a natural topic context.

Travel Experiences and Recent Journeys

Many students **have travelled** by bus, train or plane, but not everyone **has experienced** the same kind of journey. Some learners **have never been** on a ferry, while others **have flown** several times.

Last month, our class **visited** a busy airport as part of a school project. We **interviewed** passengers, **watched** staff check luggage and **learned** how delays are managed.

Since then, I **have thought** more carefully about public transport. I used to think buses were slow, but I **changed** my opinion after I **took** a new express bus across the city.

3. Notice the pattern

Use the past simple for finished past times. Use the present perfect for life experience, recent change or unfinished time.

Use	Form / signal	Example
Past simple	finished time	I travelled by train last week.
Present perfect	life experience	I have travelled by train many times.
Past simple	specific past details	We missed the bus yesterday.
Present perfect	unfinished time / result now	Transport has become more expensive this year.

4. Build accurate sentences

Complete each sentence using the grammar focus. Then write two examples of your own.

No.	Prompt	Use	Your answer
1	I / visit / the airport / last month.	past simple	
2	She / never / travel / by ferry.	present perfect	
3	The train / arrive / late / yesterday.	past simple	
4	Public transport / improve / this year.	present perfect	

1. _____

2. _____

5. Use it in exam answers

Complete the tasks using the grammar focus naturally.

Task	What to do
Speaking	Talk about a memorable journey. Use both the past simple and the present perfect.
Writing	Write a short paragraph about transport in your area. Mention one past experience and one recent change.
Reading	Underline examples of past simple and present perfect in the context text.

6. Common mistakes

Correct the mistakes.

No.	Mistake	Your correction
1	I have visited the airport yesterday.	
2	She never travelled by plane in her life.	
3	The bus has arrived late last Monday.	
4	Since then, I changed my opinion.	

7. Topic discussion questions

Use these for pair work, small-group discussion, or speaking-test warm-up practice.

1. What is the longest journey you have ever taken?
2. When did you last use public transport?
3. How has transport changed in your town or city?
4. Have you ever had a difficult journey? What happened?

Present Perfect and Past Simple in Travel

4. Build accurate sentences

1. I visited the airport last month.
2. She has never travelled by ferry.
3. The train arrived late yesterday.
4. Public transport has improved this year.

Own answers will vary. Check that the grammar focus is accurate and natural.

6. Common mistakes

1. I visited the airport yesterday.
2. She has never travelled by plane in her life.
3. The bus arrived late last Monday.
4. Since then, I have changed my opinion.

Notes for checking

1. Past simple: finished time - I travelled by train last week.
2. Present perfect: life experience - I have travelled by train many times.
3. Past simple: specific past details - We missed the bus yesterday.
4. Present perfect: unfinished time / result now - Transport has become more expensive this year.