

Have we met? Present perfect and past simple

by Jill Hadfield

Level: Pre-intermediate - intermediate

Target age: Secondary / Adult

Time needed: 30 minutes

Grammar objective: the use of past simple v present perfect

Materials: one set of role cards per group of five to six students

Summary: a whole-class role-play to practise using the present perfect and, then, switching to the past simple

Before the lesson

Cut up the role cards.

Procedure

1. Tell the class that they must imagine they have jobs that require them to move around a lot and live in many different countries. Ask for some suggestions of the kinds of jobs that require people to live in many different countries, and write them up on the board (*some examples: journalist, auditor, EFL teacher, archaeologist, military personnel, au pair, travel tour guide, consultant*). Tell students to choose one of the jobs for themselves. They don't have to tell anyone their choice at this stage.
2. Divide the class into groups of five or six. Give each group a set of role cards. They should take one card each and fill the gap with their chosen job.
3. The role cards give information about where the players lived at different points in their past and when they lived there. They met one person from their group in each of the different places they have lived. The object of the role-play is to find out where and when they met each person.
4. Explain to the students that they should begin by talking to one other person in the group and asking questions to find out where they might have met them. For example: *I think I know you. Have you ever lived in Buenos Aires?*
5. If the person answers Yes, they should then find out when they were there and if they could have met by asking *When were you there?* or *When did you live there?* Point out to students that, when asking the follow-up question, they must switch from the present

perfect to the past simple, because they're now referring to a specific time in the past.

6. They should also ask what job the person does: *What do you do for a living?*

7. They then complete the relevant box in right-hand column of their role card with the person's name and job and move on to the next person in the group.

8. At the end of the activity, ask students to report back to the class about one person they met, giving information about the country and years they both lived there, as well as the jobs they both do.

For example:

José and I both lived in San Francisco in 2011. He is a pilot and I'm a teacher.

Note: It is also possible to play this game as a whole-class mingling activity. Copy role cards for the whole class and distribute them. The students then stand up and mingle freely, asking and answering the same questions. They will meet more than one person from each town. You could also set a time limit and make it into a competition – who has met the most people from their past?

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FUN WITH GRAMMAR ROLE CARDS

	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
A	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Buenos Aires from 2000 to 2002. You lived in Paris from 2003 to 2005. You lived in Bangkok from 2006 to 2008. You lived in Auckland from 2009 to 2011. You lived in San Francisco from 2011 to 2012.</p>	
	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
B	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Buenos Aires from 2000 to 2002. You lived in the UK from 2003 to 2005. You lived in San Francisco from 2006 to 2008. You lived in Paris from 2009 to 2011. You lived in Auckland from 2011 to 2012. You lived in Bangkok from 2013 to 2014.</p>	
	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
C	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Auckland from 2000 to 2002. You lived in Paris from 2003 to 2005. You lived in Madrid from 2005 to 2008. You lived in San Francisco from 2009 to 2011. You lived in Buenos Aires from 2011 to 2012. You lived in Bangkok from 2013 to 2014.</p>	



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	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
D	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Paris from 2000 to 2002. You lived in Buenos Aires from 2003 to 2005. You lived in Beijing from 2006 to 2008. You lived in San Francisco from 2009 to 2011. You lived in Auckland from 2011 to 2012.</p>	
	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
E	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Bangkok from 1998 to 1999. You lived in Paris from 2000 to 2002. You lived in Tokyo from 2003 to 2005. You lived in Bangkok from 2006 to 2008. You lived in Auckland from 2009 to 2011. You lived in Buenos Aires from 2011 to 2012.</p>	
	where you lived and when you lived there	who you met
F	<p>Your job as a _____ means you have lived in many different countries.</p> <p>You lived in Bangkok from 1998 to 1999. You lived in Auckland from 2000 to 2002. You lived in Buenos Aires from 2003 to 2005. You lived in Rome from 2006 to 2008. You lived in Paris from 2009 to 2011. You lived in San Francisco from 2011 to 2012.</p>	

