

2.10 Present Perfect Tense vs. Past Tense

We use the **present perfect tense** when we talk about experiences, number of times, and what we have already/not yet done.

However, if you talk about a **specific time in the past**, you need to use the **past tense** (not the present perfect tense).



Examples:

- **I have been to Japan many times.** (This is **present perfect tense** because it says “many times” and there is no specific time mentioned.)
- **I went to Japan last month.** (“Last month” is a specific time, so you use **past tense**.)



Choose the correct verb form in the sentences below.

1. They _____ sushi before.
ate have eaten

2. We _____ pizza for dinner last night!
ate have eaten

3. Stephanie _____ a penguin last year.
saw has seen

4. Joe _____ many movies recently.
saw has seen

5. I _____ to Canada twice!
went have gone

6. I _____ to Canada twice last year!
went have gone