Unità 28

Present perfect e past simple

I've lost my ID card. I lost my ID card last week.

A Uso

La differenza principale tra il present perfect e il past simple è:

i) Il present perfect collega il passato al presente. In particolare, descrive qualcosa che ha ancora una relazione con il presente.
   I've lost my ID card. (I don't have my ID card now.)
   Ho perso la mia carta d'identità. (Ora non ho più la mia carta.)

ii) Il past simple descrive solo qualcosa avvenuto o iniziato nel passato. Per descrivere la situazione del presente sono necessarie altre informazioni.
    I lost my ID card last week. (I may or may not have it now.)
    Ho perso la mia carta d'identità. (Non è chiaro se in questo momento ho o non ho la carta d'identità.)

B Espressioni di tempo

Le espressioni di tempo si possono riferire ad un tempo 'finito'
(two hours ago, at 10.30, last week, in 2009) oppure 'non finito'
(recently, this week, since 2005, so far ecc.).

i) Si usa il present perfect con un'espressione di tempo 'non finito'.
   I've been busy this week. We've been to London twice this year.
   I've seen Tom recently.

ii) Si usa il past simple con un'espressione di tempo 'finito'.
   I was busy yesterday. We went to London twice last year.
   I saw Tom five minutes ago.

iii) Si può usare sia il present perfect che il past simple senza espressioni di tempo. Si fa tale uso quando l'indicazione del tempo non è importante o è sottintesa.
    I've bought a new mobile. I've finished!
    I went to school in London. We met at university.

C It's... since...

It's... since... è una struttura che indica da quanto tempo è compiuta o meno un'azione. Poiché since si riferisce ad un evento del passato, si usa il past simple.

It's ages since I went to a good party.
How long is it since you last saw Roberto?

▶ Vedi unità 27 per l'uso di since con il present perfect.

1 Scegli l'alternativa corretta.

0  We went /'ve been to Spain last year.
1  I spent /'ve spent a lot of money recently.
2  She arrived /'s arrived at 6.30.
3  We didn't watch / haven't watched TV recently.
4  I saw /'ve seen Anthony earlier today.
5  They got married /'ve got married in 1996.
6  I didn't eat / haven't eaten since breakfast.
7  We went /'ve been to the cinema two weeks ago.
8  Have you seen / Did you see Riccardo the other day?
9  You were /'ve been very busy this week.
2 Le due coppie di frasi hanno lo stesso significato. Completale usando il present perfect o il past simple dei verbi del riquadro.

be - get  have - buy  move - live  play - not play  not rain - have  see - not see

0 a I ______ this mobile since March.
   b I ______ this mobile in March.

1 a He __________ to Italy when he was a child.
    b He __________ in Italy since he was a child.

2 a The last time I __________ John was at Christmas.
    b I __________ John since Christmas.

3 a How long __________ you ________ married?
    b When __________ you ________ married?

4 a It’s six months since I __________ tennis.
    b I __________ tennis for six months.

5 a It __________ for weeks.
    b It’s weeks since we __________ any rain.

3 Completa i dialoghi con il present perfect o il past simple dei verbi tra parentesi.

0 Anne ______ you _______ (go) to the UK?
Lara Well, I’ve never _______ (never / go) to the UK, but I _______ (go) to Ireland last year.

1 Felix ______ you _______ (see) The Lord of the Rings films?
Tessa Yes, I _______ (see) them lots of times. I _______ (watch) them all the time when I was about twelve.

2 Luca I _______ (lose) my mobile. _______ you _______ (see) it?
Cosimo _______ you _______ (look) in the kitchen? I _______ (see) you with it there earlier.

3 Ben How long _______ you _______ (know) Peter?
Bice We _______ (meet) when we were at primary school. So I guess we _______ (know) each other for about ten years now.

4 Letta _______ you _______ (hear)? Chris _______ (break) his leg.
Amy Oh no! How _______ he _______ (break) it?
Lerta He _______ (fall) out of a tree!

4 Completa l’articolo con il present perfect o il past simple dei verbi tra parentesi.

**Mobile mania**

In the 1990s, the mobile phone __________ (be) a new and exciting invention. Since then, the mobile __________ (become) an important part of everyday life. And at the heart of mobile phone use is SMS text messaging. Phone companies first __________ (introduce) texting in 1995, but initially it __________ (be) possible only between people on the same network. Cross-network texting __________ (not become) available until three years later, in 1998. Since then, texting __________ (take over) from the phone conversation as the way to communicate and today, billions of text messages are sent every day.

And the mobile phone itself __________ (become) a fashion object – both in the way it looks and the way it sounds. Users __________ (be able) to download personalized ringtones and chart music for several years now. In fact, in 2006, a song based on the Crazy Frog ringtone __________ (become) a chart hit in several countries.