

Grammar • Past simple vs. present perfect

Read this email from a man on a tour of Turkey to a friend.

For questions 1–18, select the correct tense, past simple or present perfect.

ON THE ROAD TO TROY ... DAY 3

We **1** arrived / 've arrived in Cappadocia at the crack of dawn. After spending a couple of days in Istanbul, it's good to get out of the city. Not that there **2** was / 's been anything wrong with it – far from it, we **3** had / 've had an action-packed if somewhat frenetic sightseeing session with Mehmet – I don't think you **4** met / 've met him yet, at least he **5** didn't seem / hasn't seemed to think so, but you probably will when you next come out. Anyway, we **6** saw / 've seen pretty much everything, the Dolmabahce Palace, Hagia Sophia, the works basically. Oh yes, he also **7** took / 's taken us on a whirlwind tour of the Grand Bazaar, where I **8** was / 've been very nearly inveigled into buying a carpet until, thankfully, common sense **9** prevailed / has prevailed. Cappadocia, in case you **10** forgot / 've forgotten, is that rather surreal collection of conical rock formations and cave houses that I imagine you **11** saw / 've seen on a thousand tourist brochures. The region is still inhabited but nowadays the cave dwellers are mostly tourists. Over the centuries it **12** housed / 's housed all manner of different civilisations, and apparently some of its troglodyte secrets **13** weren't yet unearthed / haven't yet been unearthed. Anyway, we're off to the Zelve Valley soon and I'll let you know what it's like when I **14** was / 've been there. For me though, the highlight is going to be Troy, which I **15** wanted / 've wanted to visit ever since I first **16** struggled / have struggled with the Iliad in Greek when I **17** was / 've been fourteen. It **18** was / 's been a long time, but I'm a patient sort of man.