Simple Past vs. Present Perfect

Discuss with a partner the differences in meaning of these sentences.

1. a. I was in college many years ago.
   b. I was a student at the university.
   c. I was a very good student in college.
   d. I have been in college for two years.

2. a. Jane has worked for the same company for many years.
   b. Jane worked for the same company for many years.
   c. Jane worked for the same company years ago.
   d. Jane worked for the same company as her brother.

3. a. My children have visited Paris many times.
   b. My children visited Paris last summer.
   c. My children visited Paris in the summer.
   d. My children visited Paris during their summer vacation.

4. a. Have you been to New York?
   b. Did you go to New York during the winter?
   c. Were you in New York last year?
   d. When were you in New York?

5. a. Miriam has had many boyfriends.
   b. Miriam had many boyfriends.
   c. Miriam had a boyfriend when she lived in California.
   d. Miriam had a boyfriend named Mike.

6. a. My parents have been here since yesterday.
   b. My parents were here yesterday.
   c. My parents were here last week.
   d. My parents were here two months ago.

7. a. Kelly and Pattia visited the amusement park last year.
   b. Kelly and Pattia visited the amusement park this weekend.
   c. Kelly and Pattia visited the amusement park this summer.
   d. Kelly and Pattia have visited the amusement park many times.

8. a. The office has given a bonus to the employees every year.
   b. The office gave a bonus to the employees last year.
   c. The office gave a bonus to the employees many years ago.
d. The office gave a bonus to the employees once.

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