

PAST PERFECT

1 THEORY

Task: Study the information to see when we use the past perfect tense.

Situation 1

To show that something happened before another action in the past:

- **Example:** "By the time we arrived at the station, the train had already left."
- This means the train left before we got to the station.

Situation 2

To give background information or to explain another action in the past happened.

- **Example:** "He was tired because he had been working all day."
- The past perfect "had been working" explains why he was tired.

Situation 3

To show that something was finished before a certain time in the past:

- **Example:** "She had finished her homework before 8 p.m."
- This shows that her homework was finished before 8 p.m.

Task 2: Can you create 5 example sentences using the past perfect tense.

1. _____.
2. _____.
3. _____.
4. _____.
5. _____.

2 HOW TO FORM THE PAST PERFECT

Task: Study the grammar tables below.

1. Positive statements		
Subject	Had	Past Participle
I	had	eaten
You	had	eaten
He	had	eaten
She	had	eaten
It	had	eaten
We	had	eaten
They	had	eaten

2. Negative statements			
Subject	Had	Not	Past Participle
I	had	not	seen
You	had	not	seen
He	had	not	seen
She	had	not	seen
It	had	not	seen
We	had	not	seen
They	had	not	seen

3. Questions		
Had	Subject	Past Participle
Had	I	been
Had	you	been
Had	he	been
Had	she	been
Had	it	been
Had	we	been
Had	they	been

3 CAUSE AND EFFECT

Task 1: Match the causes (1-6) with the appropriate effects (a-f) to create sentences.

Write out the complete sentences to ensure they use the past perfect tense correctly.

1. She had forgotten to buy groceries,
 2. They had missed the bus,
 3. I had lost my keys,
 4. He had never tried sushi before,
 5. We had completed our assignments early,
 6. They had planned a surprise party,
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- a. so we had to walk to school. **2**
 - b. so we were ready for the weekend. **5**
 - c. so she went to the store to get some. **1**
 - d. but he enjoyed the meal. **4**
 - e. but I found them in the pocket of my jacket. **3**
 - f. and the guests were delighted. **6**



- **She had forgotten to buy groceries, so she went to the store to get some.**
- **They had missed the bus, so we had to walk to school.**
- **I had lost my keys, but I found them in the pocket of my jacket.**
- **He had never tried sushi before, but he enjoyed the meal.**
- **We had completed our assignments early, so we were ready for the weekend.**
- **They had planned a surprise party, and the guests were delighted.**



4 SENTENCE COMPLETION

Task 1: Complete the sentences below using the past perfect tense.

1. By the time the concert started, we **had found** (find) our seats.
2. She **had finished** (finish) her book before she went to bed last night.
3. He **had eaten** (eat) dinner before he went out with his friends.
4. When the meeting began, everyone **had already arrived** (already arrive).
5. I **had not met** (not / meet) her before the party last Saturday.
6. By the time we arrived at the station, the train **had left** (leave).
7. She **had studied** (study) hard for the test, so she was confident on the exam day.
8. We **had not heard** (not / hear) the news before it was announced on television.
9. After he **had finished** (finish) his homework, he went out to play.
10. They **had lived** (live) in New York for five years before they moved to London.
11. By the time the project was due, I **had completed** (complete) all my tasks.
12. She **had already left** (already leave) the office when I called her.
13. He **had forgotten** (forget) his umbrella, so he got wet in the rain.
14. They **had visited** (visit) London many times before he moved there.

5 FIX THE MISTAKES

Can you identify and correct the mistakes in the sentences below?

Be careful, not all sentences contain mistakes.

1. She had **eaten** lunch before she went to the meeting.
2. They had **seen** the movie before they had read the book.
3. By the time I called him, he had already left the supermarket.
4. She had already **gone** to bed when the phone rang.
5. They **had** never visited a museum until they went on their trip.
6. By the time we **reached** the station, the train had already left.
7. She had **forgotten** to set her alarm and missed her appointment.
8. They **hadn't** met before they were introduced at the party.
9. I thought that I had lost my wallet before I found it in my jacket.
10. When I called her, she had already **left** for the airport.
11. She **had** completed the task before the teacher gave the additional instructions.
12. By the time we got to the cinema, the movie **had** already started.



6 PAST PERFECT: DIALOGUE

Task 1: Complete the dialogue below using the words from the box.

had been

went

found

had already left

Kim: I was really worried yesterday.

Bill: Why? What happened?

Kim: I **had already left** for the airport when I realised I had forgotten my passport.

Bill: Oh no! What did you do?

Kim: I **went** back home as quickly as I could. By the time I got there, my roommate had already **found** it.

Bill: That's lucky! How did you manage to get to the airport on time?

Kim: I was relieved to find that my flight **had been** delayed, so I managed to catch it just in time.

Bill: That's great news! Did you have any other problems during your trip?

Kim: No, thankfully, everything else went smoothly.

Task 2: Answer the following comprehension questions:

- Why was Kim worried yesterday?
- What did Kim realise after she had left for the airport?
- What did Kim do when she realised she had forgotten her passport?
- What was the situation with Kim's flight when she arrived at the airport?

Task 3: Complete the following tasks:

- Find all the instances of the past perfect tense in the dialogue.
- Retell the story to a classmate.
- Create a similar dialogue between two people, use the past perfect tense.

7 PAST PERFECT: FINISH SENTENCES

Task: Complete the sentences using the past perfect tense. Follow the example:

Example: *When I called her...*
....she had already left for the airport.

1. By the time we got to the party, _____.
2. They had never travelled abroad until, _____.
3. By the time the rain stopped, _____.
4. By the time the concert started, _____.
5. She had already eaten breakfast when _____.
6. He had learned to drive before _____.
7. By the time the storm ended, _____.
8. When she started her new job, _____.
9. They had resolved the issue before _____.
10. By the time I finished my meal, _____.



8 QUESTION ROUND

Task: Answer the questions below, using the past perfect tense in your answers.

If the situations do not apply to you, answer hypothetically.

1. What is something that you wish you had done last year, and why?
2. What had you accomplished by the time you graduated from high school?
3. By the time you started your last job, what skills had you already developed?
4. Which company do you wish you had invested in before it became successful?
5. By the time you were seven years old, had you discovered a talent for music, art, or anything else? Tell the class about it.
6. What is your birth order? How might you be different if you had been the oldest (or youngest) child?
7. Were your parents strict or relaxed? How might your personality be different if your parents had been different?
8. As a child, what had you dreamed of becoming? Had your goals changed by the time you were an adult?
9. Tell me something interesting that a relative had achieved before they were 21.
10. How might you be different if your parents had moved to another country before you were born?
11. Had you learned how to drive a car by the time you were 17 years old?
12. What had your mother taught you to cook before you left home?

HOMework

1 SENTENCE COMPLETION

Task 1: Complete the sentences below using the past perfect tense.

Write your answers on a separate piece of paper, and share them in the next class!

1. By the time the movie started, we **had seen** (see) all the trailers.
2. She had never eaten sushi before she **travelled** (travel) to Japan.
3. He was upset because he **had missed** (miss) the bus to work.
4. The kids **had already eaten** (go) when their parents returned from work.
5. We **had just started** (just start) the project when the power went out.
6. She couldn't find her keys because she **had misplaced** (misplace) them earlier.
7. By the time he called, I **had already made** (already make) other plans.
8. They **had left** (leave) the house when the rain began.
9. I **had finished** (finish) my homework before I went to the party.
10. She felt relieved after she **had finished** (finish) the big presentation.
11. They **had visited** (visit) Paris several times before they moved there.
12. He was familiar with the subject because he **had studied** (study) it in college.

