



PAST PERFECT





- ❑ He couldn't make a sandwich because he'd forgotten to buy bread.
- ❑ The hotel was full, so I was glad that we'd booked in advance.
- ❑ My new job wasn't exactly what I'd expected.





Time up to a point in the past

We use the past perfect simple (had + past participle) to talk about time up to a certain point in the past.

- ☐ She'd published her first poem by the time she was eight.
- ☐ We'd finished all the water before we were halfway up the mountain.
- ☐ Had the parcel arrived when you called yesterday?





Past perfect for the earlier of two past actions

We can use the past perfect to show the order of two past events. The past perfect shows the earlier action and the past simple shows the later action.

❑ When the police arrived, the thief had escaped.

It doesn't matter in which order we say the two events. The following sentence has the same meaning.

❑ The thief had escaped when the police arrived.





Note that if there's only a single event, we don't use the past perfect, even if it happened a long time ago.

☐ The Romans spoke Latin. (NOT The Romans had spoken Latin.)





Past perfect with before

We can also use the past perfect followed by before to show that an action was not done or was incomplete when the past simple action happened.

- ☐ They left before I'd spoken to them.
- ☐ Sadly, the author died before he'd finished the series.





Adverbs

We often use the adverbs already (= 'before the specified time'), still (= 'as previously'), just (= 'a very short time before the specified time'), ever (= 'at any time before the specified time') or never (= 'at no time before the specified time') with the past perfect.

- ☐ I called his office but he'd already left.
- ☐ It still hadn't rained at the beginning of May.
- ☐ I went to visit her when she'd just moved to Berlin.
- ☐ It was the most beautiful photo I'd ever seen.
- ☐ Had you ever visited London when you moved there?
- ☐ I'd never met anyone from California before I met Jim.



LET'S PRACTICE!

1. When she ___ on the course, she had never studied a foreign language before.

Enrolled

'd enrolled

2. When I closed the door, I realised that I ___ my keys inside.

Left

'd left

3. She looked really sad but I didn't know what ___.

Happened

'd happened

4. ___ when you rang the doorbell?

Did Sai already leave

Had Sai already left



LET'S PRACTICE!



5. This is the oldest building in the town. It ___ over 200 years ago.

was built

'd been built

6. By the time I moved in, they ___ the building work.

Finished

'd finished

7. I opened the door, and ___ inside.

Went

'd gone

8. I looked in the letter box yesterday and the letter still ___.

didn't arrive

hadn't arrived

