

1B

Grammar

Past perfect simple and past perfect continuous

I can use the past perfect simple and past perfect continuous.



When I arrived on set to interview Paul Lacovara one afternoon, he looked exhausted. That was probably to be expected, given that he'd spent the morning jumping off buildings and being beaten up. Paul is a stunt double, the unknown star of films such as *Thor* and *The Avengers*. His career began ten years ago. Since childhood, Paul had always wanted to be either an actor or a fighter pilot. His maths had never been good enough for a career in flying, but he managed to get a job as an extra in the film *We Were Soldiers*. He turned out to be the perfect stunt double for action films – mainly because, in the months before starting work, he had been learning martial arts and training as a bodybuilder. He hadn't been doing the job for very long when he was noticed by the director – and his career took off from there. Within ten years, he had won an award for his stunt work and had received nominations for two more. And amazingly, he still has a 100% accident-free record!

- 2 Read the **Learn this!** box. Find all the examples of the past perfect simple and past perfect continuous in the text and match them with rules a–d.

LEARN THIS! Past perfect simple and continuous

- a We use the past perfect simple for completed actions that happened before a specific time in the past.
By the age of six, she'd appeared on television twice.
- b We use the past perfect continuous for longer actions or situations that happened before a specific time in the past.
They were tired because they'd been rehearsing hard.
- c With state verbs, we use the past perfect simple with *for* and *since* to say how long an action had been in progress.
He'd been an actor since childhood.
- d With action verbs, we use the past perfect continuous with *for* and *since* to say how long an action had been in progress.
She'd been writing for years before she became famous.

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- 3 Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous. Then match each sentence with a rule in the **Learn this!** box.

- 1 After he _____ (finish) speaking, everyone stood up and clapped.
- 2 They _____ (plan) the project for months when it was suddenly cancelled.
- 3 We _____ (not wait) long when the actors arrived.
- 4 Many fans _____ (queue) since midday to see the stars.
- 5 She _____ (know) what job she wanted to do since she was a child.
- 6 He _____ (not wear) protective clothing when the accident happened, so he was badly injured.
- 7 He _____ (try) to get into acting for years before he got the part in the film.
- 8 She _____ (win) two Oscars by the age of thirty.

- 4 **USE OF ENGLISH** Complete the sentences with the correct form of the words in brackets. Use the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous. Use no more than five words, including the words provided.

- 1 She _____ (act / years) before she won an Oscar.
- 2 Joe _____ (not / visited / the USA) until he was in his thirties.
- 3 My cousin had a terrible headache because he _____ (watch / television) since midday.
- 4 The play was a real disappointment, and we _____ (want / see) it for such a long time.
- 5 Were they upset because they _____ (not / manage / buy) tickets for the concert that evening?
- 6 He _____ (not / work) many weeks before the director noticed him.
- 7 _____ (you / leave / university) by the time you became an extra?

- 5 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Think about the last time you were:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------|
| 1 exhausted. | 5 shocked. |
| 2 amazed. | 6 upset. |
| 3 bad-tempered. | 7 worried. |
| 4 disappointed. | |

Find out why your partner felt that way. Use appropriate past tenses.

Why were you exhausted?

Because I'd been playing tennis all morning. Why were you exhausted?

Because I'd had a really bad night's sleep.