The past of the past: Past Perfect

Match the sentences

1	I couldn't find my bike because...		a I'd already seen the movie.
2	I didn't want to go to the movie theater because...		b I'd left my towel at home.
3	I didn't recognize Jack at first because...		c I'd already called her three times.
4	I couldn't catch the flight because...		d somebody had stolen it.
5	I didn't want to call Jane again because...		e I hadn't brought my glasses.
6	I bought the book because...		f the stylist had cut my hair much too short.
7	My phone didn't work because...		g I'd left my passport at home.
8	I couldn't go swimming because...		h I'd drunk too much coffee.
9	I had a big argument with my husband last night because...		i my sister had recommended it.
10	I nearly cried when I came out of the salon because...		j I hadn't studied enough.
11	I couldn't sleep because...		k I hadn't seen him for 30 years.
12	I failed the exam because...		l he'd forgotten our wedding anniversary.
13	I had problems reading the menu because...		m the chef hadn't cooked it enough.
14	I couldn't eat the fish because...		n I'd forgotten to charge it.

FOLD

12A past perfect

+ When I woke up the yard was all white. 5 17
  It **had snowed** during the night.
  I suddenly realized that I'**d left** my cell phone in the taxi.
− We got home just in time – the game **hadn't started.**
  When she got to class, she realized that she **hadn't brought** her book.
? A I went to New York City last weekend. I really loved it.
  B **Had** you **been** there before?
  A No, I **hadn't**.

- Use the past perfect when you are already talking about the past and want to talk about an earlier past action.
  *When I woke up the yard was all white. It **had snowed** during the night.* = It snowed before I woke up.
- Make the past perfect with *had / hadn't* + past participle.
- The form of the past perfect is the same for all persons.
- *had* is sometimes contracted to *'d*.

had or would?
Be careful: *'d* can be *had* or *would*.
*I didn't know that you'**d** found a new job.* (*'d = had*)
*If you went by taxi, you'**d** get there more quickly.*
(*'d = would*)

LIVEWORKSHEETS