

The past of the past: Past Perfect

Match the sentences

- 1 I couldn't find my bike because...
- 2 I didn't want to go to the movie theater because...
- 3 I didn't recognize Jack at first because...
- 4 I couldn't catch the flight because...
- 5 I didn't want to call Jane again because...
- 6 I bought the book because...
- 7 My phone didn't work because...
- 8 I couldn't go swimming because...
- 9 I had a big argument with my husband last night because...
- 10 I nearly cried when I came out of the salon because...
- 11 I couldn't sleep because...
- 12 I failed the exam because...
- 13 I had problems reading the menu because...
- 14 I couldn't eat the fish because...

FOLD

- a I'd already seen the movie.
- b I'd left my towel at home.
- c I'd already called her three times.
- d somebody had stolen it.
- e I hadn't brought my glasses.
- f the stylist had cut my hair much too short.
- g I'd left my passport at home.
- h I'd drunk too much coffee.
- i my sister had recommended it.
- j I hadn't studied enough.
- k I hadn't seen him for 30 years.
- l he'd forgotten our wedding anniversary.
- m the chef hadn't cooked it enough.
- n I'd forgotten to charge it.

12A past perfect

⊕ When I woke up the yard was all white. 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)*