

“Dante had written about ten books....” Is that right, or wrong?
... Well, it depends....

BEFORE YOU START....

If you haven't already met our historic Dante Alighieri in Star's task about the past simple vs. the present perfect, do that first!
If you have done it, then go ahead, and do this one! ☺



You already know the simple past. The past perfect is made with the simple past of the helping verb “to have” in the right voice for the subject then the past participle of the verb that shows the action, ex., *had gone*.

1. So, when DO we choose “wrote” or “had written”? Try! Drag & drop the verb tense, correctly.



simple past

past perfect



2. What do you think the difference is between the two? (*Choose*)



3. More practice? Tick the correct version of these sentences (*Be careful! Maybe neither are correct! Heehee!*):

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> You had already left by the time I arrived. | | <input type="checkbox"/> You left by the time I had already arrived. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> She had already eaten before she drank tea. | | <input type="checkbox"/> She ate before she had drunk tea. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I had already gone before I wrote a letter. | | <input type="checkbox"/> I went before I had already written a letter. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> We had gone to him after we read his book. | | <input type="checkbox"/> We went to him after we had read his book. |

4. Now that you know how and when to use the past perfect, it's your turn to try! (*ungraded*)

5. I can hear you asking, "Does the past perfect have a continuous form, and, if so, when do we use it, and what's the difference with the past continuous?" Yes, it does. What's the difference? Look at these:



- She had been serving the guests for 2 hours when her substitute finally arrived.
- She was serving wine when her substitute finally arrived two hours late.

Past relationships 2.0 – Past Simple vs Past Perfect and continuous forms by S.K. Meyer

Both tell us that something was in action in the past. One emphasizes a continuous action, and one puts more emphasis on how long that action lasted. Tick the one *above* that emphasizes how long the *-ing* action took.

6. To be sure, look at these, and tick the one that emphasizes the (sometimes interrupted) continuous action:

____ She had been daydreaming for 1 hour, when the waiter finally brought her the menu.

____ She was daydreaming, when the waiter finally brought her the menu after 1 hour.



7. Look at the correct examples, again, and write your sentence using the past perfect continuous. (*ungraded*)

8. So, when DO we choose “wrote” or “had written”? Try, again! Drag & drop the verb tense, correctly.







simple past

past perfect



9. When DO we choose “was writing” or “had been writing?” Drag & drop the verb tense, correctly:

						past continuous
						past perfect continuous

Were you paying attention before you finished the task? 😊
Had you been paying attention the whole time before you finished the task? 😊

(N.B., the images are Microsoft Clipart from the Word program used to create this task.)