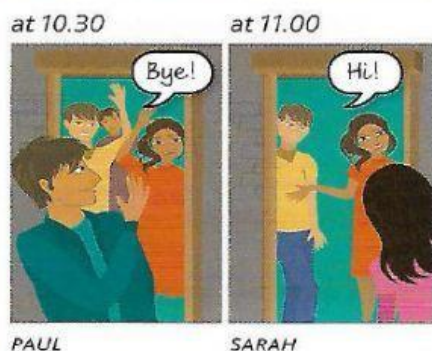


## PAST PERFECT

**A**

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

**Had gone** is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had + past participle (gone/seen/finished etc.)**.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- ☐ Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had ...**):

- ☐ When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

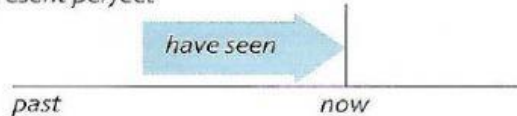
Some more examples:

- ☐ When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- ☐ Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- ☐ At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- ☐ The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.  
or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

**B**

Compare the *present perfect (have seen etc.)* and the *past perfect (had seen etc.)*:

*Present perfect*



- ☐ Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- ☐ We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- ☐ The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

*Past perfect*



- ☐ I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- ☐ We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- ☐ The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

**C**

Compare the *past simple (left, was etc.)* and the *past perfect (had left, had been etc.)*:

- ☐ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- ☐ Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned.  
She **was** at her mother's house.

- ☐ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- ☐ Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned.  
She **had been** at her mother's house.

## Exercises

### 15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.  
(she / go / out) She had gone out.
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.  
(it / change / a lot) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.  
(she / arrange / to do something else) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.  
(the film / already / start) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.  
(I / not / see / him for five years) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.  
(she / just / have / breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_

### 15.2 For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.  
(fly) He'd never flown before.
- 2 Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.  
(hear) I \_\_\_\_\_ before.
- 3 Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.  
(play) He \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.  
(be there) We \_\_\_\_\_

### 15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1 (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night.<br>(b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u><br>(c) We called the police.                         | { We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So _____ the police. |
| 2 (a) Laura went out this morning.<br>(b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u><br>(c) There was no answer.  | { I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but _____ no answer. _____ out.  |
| 3 (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago.<br>(b) <u>I met him the same day.</u><br>(c) He looked very well.   | { I met Jim a few days ago. _____ just _____ holiday. _____ very well.   |
| 4 (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails.<br>(b) She never replied to them.<br>(c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u><br>(d) He was very surprised. | { Yesterday Kevin _____ from Sally. _____ very surprised. _____ lots of emails, but _____  |

### 15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (I had done) or past simple (I did).

- 1 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he had gone (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car \_\_\_\_\_ (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we \_\_\_\_\_ (see) a car which \_\_\_\_\_ (break) down, so we \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) to help.

