

## Past Perfect vs. Past Perfect Progressive

Look at the picture. Who is this person? What do you know of her? Write what you know in the boxes.



### Biography

Jennifer López had been working as an actress for over a decade and she had already appeared in seven movies by 1997, the year she starred in *Selena*. Her career took off with that role, and today she is internationally famous. Many people look up to her because she has managed to turn her success as a singer and actress into very successful brands of designer goods, JLo and Sweetface.

Think. Which events happened before 1997?

How do we know the happened before that date?

## Grammar

Tense	Form	Function	Examples
Past perfect	_____ + past participle.	Describes a completed event, action or state that took place before an event, action, state, or time in the past.	She had appeared in seven movies by 1997.
Past perfect progressive	_____ + _____ + - ing.	Emphasizes the duration of an event, action, or state that continued up to another event, action, state, or time in the past.	She had been working as an actress for over a decade.

## Practice

Complete each sentence with the verb in parentheses in the past perfect or past perfect progressive

1. When I saw Scott, he \_\_\_\_\_ (work) all day and he was very tired.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) eating dinner when the doorbell rang.
3. By 2012, he \_\_\_\_\_ (appear) in over 100 movies.
4. Tom couldn't tell me what the problem was because he \_\_\_\_\_ (run) and was out of breath.
5. I was late for the meeting and they \_\_\_\_\_ (start) by the time I got there.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ (design) clothes for some time before the look caught on.
7. She \_\_\_\_\_ (consider) a career as a designer for a long time before she finally decided to do it.
8. By the time she was 30, her career \_\_\_\_\_ (take off) and she was famous.

### Now you do it

Look at the notes about Justin Timberlake and use the prompts and your own ideas to talk about his life using the past perfect and past perfect progressive.

By 2002, he... (sing)

By 2006, he... (release)

Started  
singing with  
'N Sync.

Released  
his first  
solo album

Released  
his second  
solo album

Appeared  
in several  
movies

1995

2002

2005

2006

2007

2006-10

2012



Brought  
out  
William  
Rast  
clothing  
line

Started  
dating  
actress  
Jessica Biel

Married  
Jessica  
Biel

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

### Grammar practice

Look at the years below. What had you or your family done by these dates? Write sentences about yourself or your family using past perfect and past perfect progressive.

Example:

By 1998, my parent had had two children.

By 2010, I had been studying English for five years.

1994  
1998  
2002  
2010  
2013  
2018

## Writing

Research a celebrity you're interested in, and write a short biography like the one about Jennifer Lopez. Include a variety of events in the celebrity's life, and use verbs in both the past perfect and the past perfect progressive.



## Listening

Examples for further reference. Comment with the class what happened in the video stories.

