

# PAST PERFECT

Study this example situation:



I went to a party last week. Tom went to the party too. Tom went home at 10:30. So, when I arrived at 11:00, Tom wasn't there.

When I arrived at the party, Tom wasn't there. He **had gone** home.

This is the *past perfect (simple)* tense:

I/he/she (etc.) **had** (= I'd / he'd / she'd, etc.) **gone**

I/he/she (etc.) **hadn't gone**

**had you/he/she (etc.) gone?**

We form the past perfect with **HAD + VERB (past participle)**

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- I **arrived** at the party.

We use the past perfect to say that something had already happened before this time:

- When I **arrived** at the party, Tom **had** already **gone** home.

Here are some more examples:

- When I **got** home, I found that someone **had broken into** my apartment and **had stolen** my fur coat.
- George **didn't want** to come to the movies with us because he **had** already **seen** the film twice.
- It **was** my first time in an airplane. I **was** very nervous because I **had** never **flown** before.

The past perfect (*I had done*) is the past of the present perfect (*I have done*). Compare these situations:

Present	Past
I'm not hungry. I've just <b>had</b> lunch. The house is dirty. We <b>haven't</b> <b>cleaned</b> it for weeks.	I wasn't hungry. I'd just <b>had</b> lunch. The house was dirty. We <b>hadn't</b> <b>cleaned</b> it for weeks.

Compare the past perfect (*I had done*) and the past simple (*I did*):

- "Was Tom there when you **arrived**?" 'No, he **had** already **gone** home.'
- "Was Tom there when you **arrived**?" 'Yes, but he **went** home soon.'



## PRACTICE

1. Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Imagine you went back to your home town after many years, and you found many things different.

- a. My best friend, Kevin, was no longer there. He \_\_\_\_\_ (go) away.
- b. The local movie theatre was no longer open. It \_\_\_\_\_ (close) down.
- c. Mr. Johnson was no longer alive. He \_\_\_\_\_ (die).
- d. I didn't recognize Mrs Johnson. She \_\_\_\_\_ (change) a lot.
- e. Bill no longer had his car. He \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) it.

2. Complete the sentences as in the example. Use the verbs in brackets.

*Mr. and Mrs. Davis were in an airplane. They were nervous as the plane took off because they (never/fly) **had never flown before**.*

- a. The woman was a complete stranger to me. I (never / see) \_\_\_\_\_ before.
- b. Margaret was late for work. Her boss was very surprised because she (never / be / late) \_\_\_\_\_ before.
- c. Jane played tennis yesterday – at least she tried to play tennis. She wasn't very good at it because she (never / play) \_\_\_\_\_ before.
- d. It was Carl's first driving lesson. He was very nervous, and he didn't know what to do. He (never / drive) \_\_\_\_\_ before.

3. Put the verbs into the correct form: Past simple or Past perfect.

- a. The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed.
- b. I felt very tired when I got home, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) straight to bed.
- c. Sorry I'm late. The car \_\_\_\_\_ (break) down on my way here.
- d. There was a car by the side of the road. It \_\_\_\_\_ (break) down and the driver was trying to repair it. So we \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) to see if we could help.
- e. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) in London two years ago. I thought it was beautiful. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) to England before.

4. Supply the correct past simple or past perfect form of the verbs in brackets. Which action happened first?

They had locked the gates before I got there. (lock, get)

- a. By the time we \_\_\_\_\_, the party \_\_\_\_\_. (arrive, finish)
- b. I \_\_\_\_\_ the shop as soon as I \_\_\_\_\_ the contents of the box.  
(call, check)
- c. When she \_\_\_\_\_ the office this morning, Jim \_\_\_\_\_. (ring, already go out)
- d. Before we \_\_\_\_\_ Tim to the theatre, he \_\_\_\_\_ a stage play before. (take, see)
- e. I \_\_\_\_\_ the carpet when the dog \_\_\_\_\_ in and \_\_\_\_\_ himself. (just clean, come, shake)

5. You are going to watch a video. This is the story of Jake and Ann. Decide if the following statements are true (T) or false (F)

- a. Jake accidentally used the aftershave after he had brushed his teeth. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. When Jake went to get dressed, he realized he had left his best shirt in the washer. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. By the time Jake went to the dryer, the shirt had already shrunk. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. It was the third time Jake had worn his shirt inside out. \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Ann didn't see Jake because she had waited at a different taqueria. \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Jake and Ann had seen the same movies when they were teenagers. \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Jake and Ann had played the same sport when they were younger. \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Ann leaned to reach for Jake's key that had started to slip out of his jacket. \_\_\_\_\_