"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




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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!*):

| | |
|---|---|
| _____ You had already left by the time I arrived. | _____ You left by the time I had already arrived. |
| _____ She had already eaten before she drank tea. | _____ She ate before she had drunk tea. |
| _____ I had already gone before I wrote a letter. | _____ I went before I had already written a letter. |
| _____ We had gone to him after we read his book. | _____ We went to him after we had read his book. |

4. Now that you know how and when to use the <u>past perfect</u>, 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.

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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 <u>how long</u> the *–ing* action took.

6. To be sure, look at these, and tick the one that emphasizes the <u>(sometimes interrupted) continuous</u> 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 <u>past perfect continuous</u>. (*ungraded*)

_____

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





simple past

past perfect




_____ _____

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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? ☺

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

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