

Two simultaneous actions in the past.

We have learned that if there were two actions in the past and the first action in the past was more past than the second, the first action is in the Past Perfect Tense; and the second is in the Past Simple Tense; as,

- The show had already begun when we reached the theater.

If the two actions occurred at the same time, or one followed the other immediately, the Past Simple can be used with both actions; as,

- He jumped out of bed as soon as he heard the doorbell.
- When the alarm rang, he jumped out of bed quickly.

Several actions occurred successively in the past can be in the Past Simple Tense if the speaker wants to tell only what occurred and does not want to emphasize the relation of the time; as,

- He got up, went downstairs, took a bath, and then ate breakfast.

Note. The conjunction before (after) implies time relation.

Past Perfect is often unnecessary; as,

- He took off his shoes before he went to bed.
- He went to France before he finished his homework.

Use either the past simple or the past perfect of the verbs in parentheses.

1. By the time my sister (come) _____ back from holiday, all her parents at home (die) _____.
2. By the time the authorities (warn) _____ the people against the dangers of drinking the water without boiling it, many children (already, get infected) _____.
3. He (take) _____ his family abroad last year. The children (be) _____ really excited because they (never, be) _____ abroad before.
4. There was a bad smell when I (get) _____ home, so I (open) _____ the windows at once to let it out.
5. When a tourist (ask) _____ the way to the nearest post office in good English we (give) _____ her the directions rather excitedly because we (never, have) _____ the opportunity to use our English so freely before.
6. As soon as we (see) _____ how busy the motorway (be) _____, we (decide) _____ to take the country road.
7. The supermarket (close) _____ by the time I (get) _____ there, so I (go) _____ to the local shop instead.
8. Even though I (already, explain) _____ the problem to her in great detail, she (still, want) _____ me to go through with her again.
9. As the worker (never, behave) _____ like that previously, the manager (decide) _____ to overlook the incident.
10. He (recognize) _____ me straightway even though he (not, see) _____ me since I (be) _____ a child.