

# Past Perfect

had (not) + past participle (-ed/3rd column)

+

He **had seen** the film before.  
He'd **seen** the film before.

-

They **had not seen** the film before.  
They **hadn't seen** the film before.

?

**Had** you **seen** the film before.

short  
answer

Yes, I **had**.  
No, I **hadn't**.

**Note the difference :**

**Past Perfect**



When Tom phoned he **had left**.  
(He left before Tom phoned.)

**Past Simple**



When she phoned he **left**.  
(She phoned and then he left.)

**Fill in Past Simple or Past Perfect, then state which action happened first.**

- When I **arrived** (arrive) at the station, the train **had left** (leave). **first action** : **had left**
- We ..... (light) the candles because the lights ..... (go off).  
**first action** : .....
- When I got home I ..... (discover) that somebody ..... (break into) my flat.  
**first action** : .....
- The patient ..... (die) before the ambulance ..... (reach) the hospital.  
**first action** : .....
- John ..... (eat) all the cakes by the time the other children ..... (arrive) at the party. **first action** : .....



**Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Simple.**



1. John *lit* (light) the candles when she arrived.



2. George ..... (light) the candles when she arrived.



3. When she arrived at the theatre he ..... (buy) the tickets.



4. When she arrived at the theatre he ..... (buy) the tickets.



5. When she came home they ..... (have) dinner together.



6. When he came home she ..... (already/have) dinner.

**Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Simple.**

After Jim and Terry 1) ... *had finished* ... (finish) their breakfast, they 2) ..... (take) their bags and 3) ..... (go) to the river to fish. They 4) ..... (go) there before and 5) ..... (catch) some big fish. By 5 o' clock they 6) ..... (not/get) any fish, so they decided to go home. They 7) ..... (promise) their mother to bring fish for dinner, so they 8) ..... (look) for a shop where they could buy some but the shops 9) ..... (already/close). When they 10) ..... (arrive) home, they 11) ..... (tell) their mother that they 12) ..... (catch) the biggest fish they 13) ..... (ever/see) but it 14) ..... (escape).

