

PAST PERFECT

We use the Past Perfect when we mention two events in the past and we need to emphasize the order.
Look at the timeline.



When I turned on the TV, the movie had already finished.

Event in the past

Event in the past

Present

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE PAST

1st event: the movie finished

2nd event: I turned on the TV

Consequence: I missed the movie, that's why I'm disappointed.

FORMULA OF THE PAST PERFECT:

HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE (-ed for regular verbs / 3rd column of the irregular verbs table)

Affirmative form: SUBJECT + HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE

Interrogative form: HAD + SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE

Negative form: SUBJECT + HADN'T + PAST PARTICIPLE

Read the sentences and decide which event happened first. Write 1 or 2 to order the events.

Ex.: By the time I got to the airport, the plane had already taken off.

(2) I got to the airport.

(1) The plane took off.

a) Lucy had already left when I arrived home.

() Lucy left.

() I arrived home.

b) When they arrived at the stadium, the game had already started.

() They arrived at the stadium

() The game started.

c) I hadn't finished my homework by the time the school bus arrived.

() I was trying to finish my homework

() The school bus arrived.

d) Had you cleaned your room when your mother came in?

() You cleaned your room.

() Your mother came in.

e) When I finally closed the gate my dog had already run away.

() I closed the gate.

() The dog ran away.

f) Before the end of the year we had already become best friends.

() The year ended.

() We became best friends.