

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Past perfect simple

(subject + had + past part)

- ✓ To talk about something which happened before something which is described in the past:
*When he got to the station, the train **had left***
- ✓ Typically with time expressions such as: **when, as soon as, after, before...**
- ✓ *She started driving before he **had fastened** the seatbelt*
- ✓ Often with these adverbs: **already, just, never.**
*He **had never eaten** steak and kidney pie until he came to England*

Past perfect continuous

(subject + had + been + v-ing)

- ✓ To talk about something which happened before something which is described in the past **BUT**:
- ✓ Focuses in the **length of time**
*Mandy needed a walk because she'd **been sitting** down **all day***
- ✓ Says **how long** something happened up to a point in the past
*He **had been playing** for Arsenal **for only two games** when he scored his first goal*