Grammar: Past perfect and simple past

6. Read the sentences. Then circle the correct answer to complete the rules.

The young man's parents **called** the police after he **had been** gone for three days.

The boy **had drunk** the liquid from all the contact lens cases when they **found** him.

The boy **didn't tell** his story until he **had drunk** a lot of water.

1. We **can / can't** use the past perfect and the simple past in the same sentence.
2. We use the **simple past / past perfect** for the action that was completed first.

Check your answers: Grammar reference, p. 113

7. Circle the correct answers.

1. Kent _____ about the weather until he _____ outside for a few minutes.
   a. didn't think / had been b. had thought / had been
2. After Jen _____ her map for a long time, she _____ to turn left.
   a. studied / had decided b. had studied / decided
3. The skier's family _____ worried only after the avalanche _____.
   a. had gotten / had happened b. got / had happened
4. By the time my father _____, I _____ the party.
   a. had called / left b. called / had left

8. Complete the text with the simple past or past perfect forms of the verbs. Then listen and check your answers.

I [1] *saw* (see) an interesting movie last night. It was the true story of a guy named Aron Ralston. He was alone in a canyon in a national park. A large rock [2]_____ (fall) on his right hand, and his hand was stuck between the rock and a wall. Unfortunately, before he [3]_____ (leave) home, he [4]_____ (not tell) his friends or family where he was going. They didn't know he was lost. He was in the canyon for five days. He [5]_____ (drink) all his water already, and he [6]_____ (eat) all his food, when he had an idea. He [7]_____ (bring) along a small, cheap penknife, so he [8]_____ (use) it to cut off his arm. It was terrible, but he did it. He was free. He started walking and found a family in the park. After they [9]_____ (give) him some water, they [10]_____ (call) emergency services. He survived! It was a very exciting story.



Get it RIGHT!

Use the past perfect, not the present perfect, for referring to events completed before another past moment. *After I **had read** three books about forest fires, I decided to become a firefighter.* NOT: ~~*After I **have read** three books about forest fires, I decided to become a firefighter.*~~

Speaking: I hadn't done my homework yet!

9. Think about what you did yesterday. Write down one thing you had done, and one thing you hadn't done, by the time you did each thing in the box.

had breakfast	ate lunch	went to bed
got to school	had dinner	

By the time I had breakfast, I had taken a shower.

10. YOUR TURN Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about the things you did.

Had you taken a shower by the time you had breakfast?

Yes, I had. What about you?

No, I hadn't. But I had made my bed.