

# Past perfect with past simple

We use these two tenses when we talk about **two actions or situations in the past** but we want to make it clear that **one action happened before the other**, that it is further back in the past.

- We use the **past perfect** with the **action that happened first**, that is further **back in the past**.
- We use the **past simple** with the other action, the one that is **more recent**.

## Example:

When Lina **discovered** the truth about Looper, she **realized** that she **had bought** stolen pencils.

## "What happened first?

First, Lina bought the pencils and then she realized they were stolen.

To **form** the past perfect we need **had** or **hadn't** (for the negative) and a **past participle** verb.

## Affirmative:

"Granny knew that **her grandfather had lost something** important."

## Negative:

"Lina didn't know why **she hadn't recognized Looper** in the pipeworks."

## Question:

"Doon was bewildered! **Why had the mayor lied at the Assembly?**"

# Past perfect practice

## What happened first?

Write **1** in front of the first action and **2** in front of the later action.

- a) Doon finished fixing the clog.      He went to see the locked door.
- b) Doon found the Mayor in the room.      Mayor Cole fell asleep.
- c) Lina was disappointed.      Lina thought the door led out of Ember.
- d) They didn't consider that the river could be the way out of Ember.      Doon and Lina were surprised.
- e) Lina tried to push and pull the door.      She didn't notice it was a sliding door.
- f) They didn't know how to use a candle.      The never saw a candle before.

## Now, write sentences.

Use the information above and make sentences using the **past simple for the later action** and the **past perfect for the earlier action**.

- a) When Doon ..... , he .....
- b) The Mayor ..... , when Doon .....
- c) Lina ..... because she .....
- d) Lina and Doon ..... , so they .....
- e) Lina ..... because she .....
- f) They reason why they ..... was because .....

## Past simple or past perfect?

Select the best option for each part of the sentence.

1. Mrs. Murdo **was/had been** worried because Lina **was/had been** out for many hours.
2. Once his father **left/had left**, Doon **started/had started** packing his things for the adventure.
3. When Doon **checked/had checked** on his green worm, it **completed/had completed** its metamorphosis.
4. Now, the city guards **were/had been** looking for Doon but he **didn't lie/hadn't lied** to them about the mayor!
5. After a tiring day, Lina **just fell/had just fallen** asleep when Poppy **woke/had waken** her up.

## Past participle verbs!

Let's revise: Choose the correct form of the verb for each sentence.

1) Lina was terrified of the river! She had never ..... something so violent.

see      seed      saw      seen

2) Doon couldn't believe that the guards hadn't ..... the Mayor after everything they had ..... them.

arrest      arrested      arrought      arresting  
tell      telled      told      stollen

3) Doon went to Mrs. Murdo's house to warn Lina that the guards had ..... to his house to arrest him.

come      comed      came      caught

4) When they left Mrs. Murdo's house they saw that the Guards had ..... notices all over the city.

post      posted      posting      poster

5) They were bewildered! They had ..... very close to saving Ember!

be      were      been      was

6) Lina stopped suddenly. She had ..... about Poppy!

forget      forgotten      fogetting      forgotted