

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Past perfect with *never, already, by (then), by the time*

1 Read the sentences and underline the action that happened first.

- I had already had lunch when my sister arrived.
- My sister had already got married by the time she was 20.
- Dan wasn't happy because I had turned down his invitation.
- By the time the match finished, we had scored five goals!
- We had walked a very long way by the time we found the river.

2 Match the beginnings of the sentences (1-5) with the ends (a-e).

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|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 I had never seen snow | ☒ c |
| 2 We had only been at the hotel a few minutes when | ☐ |
| 3 Had you ever run more than 5 km | ☐ |
| 4 By the time my granddad settled in England, | ☐ |
| 5 We had already been to six different shops | ☐ |
| a by the time Clara decided to buy something. | |
| b before today? | |
| c before I went to Sierra Nevada. | |
| d he'd lived in six different countries. | |
| e the storm started. | |

3 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- car / seen / had / the / already
I had already seen the car.
- had / then / back / by / come
Jack came back by then.
- rang / woken up / you / I / when / already / ?
Had I woken you up when I rang?
- abroad / never / year / had / last / been / I
Before I had been abroad last year.
- then / a snake / ever / you / before / seen / ?
Had you ever seen a snake before then?

4 Complete the sentences with the past simple or the past perfect.

- Pablo had never had (never / have) guitar lessons before he gave (give) his first concert.
- Had (Sean / ever make) lasagne before today?
- School started (already / start) when I arrived (arrive).
- By the time Sara left (leave) England, she had learned (learn) to speak English very well.
- I had never felt (never / feel) real terror until I saw (see) that film!
- Had (everyone / already / go) to bed by the time the fire started (start)?

5 Complete the text with the past simple or the past perfect.

Emma ¹ moved (move) to a new school last year. By the time she ² was (be) there a couple of weeks, she ³ had settled (already / settle) down very well. And now things are going even better! Last week she ⁴ became (become) the captain of the school football team.

She ⁵ was (be) very happy about this because she ⁶ always wanted (always / want) to be the team captain. And yesterday she ⁷ received (receive) her exam results. More good news! She ⁸ had never got (never / get) all top marks before!



6 Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the past perfect.

- Before this year, I had never been to a concert.
- We didn't win the match because we hadn't practiced enough.
- I signed up for karate lessons because I had always wanted to.
- By the time Ella finished university, she had already found a job.
- Max was going through a hard time because he had lost his dog.