LANGUAGE IN ACTION

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

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

1 I had already had lunch when my sister arrived.
2 My sister had already got married by the time she was 20.
3 Dan wasn't happy because I had turned down his invitation.
4 By the time the match finished, we had scored five goals!
5 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).**

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.**

1 car / seen / had / the / already
I had already seen the car.
2 had / then / back / by / come
Jack _____
3 rang / woken up / you / I / when / already / ?
Had _____
4 abroad / never / year / had / last / been / I
Before _____
5 then / a snake / ever / you / before / seen / ?
Had _____

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

1 Pablo *had never had* (never / have) guitar lessons before he *gave* (give) his first concert.
2 _____ (Sean / ever make) lasagne before today?
3 School _____ (already / start) when I _____ (arrive).
4 By the time Sara _____ (leave) England, she _____ (learn) to speak English very well.
5 I _____ (never / feel) real terror until I _____ (see) that film!
6 _____ (everyone / already / go) to bed by the time the fire _____ (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] _____ (be) there a couple of weeks, she [3] _____ (already / settle) down very well. And now things are going even better! Last week she [4] _____ (become) the captain of the school football team.

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



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

1 Before this year, I _____
2 We didn't win the match because we _____
3 I signed up for karate lessons because _____
4 By the time Ella finished university, _____
5 Max was going through a hard time because _____

LIVEWORKSHEETS

WRITING

An opinion essay

1 ☆ **Look at the essay quickly. Does the writer think that life used to be better in the past?**

_____

2 ☆☆ **Read the essay and answer the questions. Tick (✓) and circle the correct answers.**

1 In which TWO paragraphs does the writer give ideas to support their opinion?

A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐

2 In paragraph A, the writer *asks a question / gives their opinion.*

3 In paragraph D, the writer *repeats their opinion / asks the reader a question.*

3 ☆☆ **Complete the essay with the *Useful language* phrases in the box.**

~~firstly~~	in addition	in conclusion
secondly	therefore	
this means that		

4 ☆☆ **What different words or expressions does the writer use to avoid repeating items 1–4 below?**

1 in the past (paragraph B) _____

2 better (paragraph B) _____

3 situation (paragraph B) _____

4 look at (paragraph D) _____

5 ☆☆ **Complete the sentence.**

In paragraphs B and C, to describe life in the past, the writer uses the past simple, _____ and _____.

Did life use to be better?



A Older people often say that, in the past, life used to be better. However, in my opinion, this is simply not true.

B [1] Firstly, let's look at the situation of women. In the old days, many men (and some women) used to think that a woman's role in life was to be a mother and to do the housework and the cooking. Fortunately, attitudes have changed a lot since then! [2] _____ women today are in a much more favourable position.

C [3] _____, the number of very poor people around the world has decreased significantly in the last 20 or 30 years. [4] _____, many children in poor countries would die when they were still very young. This happens far less often now. [5] _____ we can talk about huge change in two very important areas.

D [6] _____, the world today is a much better place. If we examine the facts, no one would want to go back to a 'golden past'. This past only exists in some people's imagination. It never existed in reality.

LIVEWORKSHEETS