

GRAMMAR

Past Perfect; Past Perfect and Past Simple

We use the Past Perfect for actions that happened at a specific time in the past.

I had seen the poster.

She hadn't acted before.

Had they read the rules? Yes, they had./No, they hadn't.

Past Perfect and Past Simple

We use these tenses to show that one event happened before another.

We link the Past Simple and Past Perfect with *because*, *before*, *by the time*, *when* and *after*.

By the time his friends arrived, Jim had tidied up his bedroom.

Abe rang Carla after he'd spoken to Bea.

1 Complete the sentences with the Past Perfect form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 *I had bought* (buy) a new dress before I went to the opera.
- 2 She was disappointed because she _____ (not watch) the livestream.
- 3 The band _____ (learn) the lyrics before they sang on stage.
- 4 _____ you _____ (act) in any films before this one?
- 5 _____ you ever _____ (write) a film review before today?
- 6 David _____ (be) a dancer before he was a teacher.

2 Match the sentence halves.

1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sheila was happy	a he'd seen the film.
2 <input type="checkbox"/> I hadn't seen an elephant	b we went to France.
3 <input type="checkbox"/> By the time I got up,	c we had walked for hours.
4 <input type="checkbox"/> We had never been abroad before	d because she'd passed her exam.
5 <input type="checkbox"/> John read the book after	e my parents had had breakfast.
6 <input type="checkbox"/> We were tired because	f before I went to the zoo.

3 Write the part of the sentence which happens first. Then write the linking word.

1 I was hungry because I hadn't had breakfast.

I hadn't had breakfast - because

2 We had waited for an hour before he arrived.

3 James got up after Sally had left the house.

4 By the time they arrived at the theatre, the play had already started.

5 Nigel had done a lot of research before he made the documentary.

6 I had already finished the series when Carl told me about it.

4 Choose the correct option to make sentences with the Past Perfect and Past Simple.

- 1 I studied *I had studied* a lot of thrillers before I wrote *I had written* one.
- 2 Vicky *had made / made* the video before she entered */ had entered* the competition.
- 3 The show *had already started / already started* when we *had switched / switched* on the TV.
- 4 He *acted / had acted* in many films after he *had become / became* famous.

5 Complete the text with the correct Past Perfect form of these verbs. There is one extra verb.

buy entertain leave not eat not see pack plan

Last summer, we flew to Scotland. Mum ¹ *had planned* to go to Edinburgh Castle to watch the fireworks. We took a taxi to the airport, but there was a lot of traffic. By the time we got there, the plane ² _____. Fortunately, Mum ³ _____ tickets which we could use on a later flight. We arrived that evening. It was raining, but luckily we ⁴ _____. We climbed up to the castle. I ⁵ _____ a firework display live before, so it was a new experience. After that, we went for fish and chips. We were hungry because we ⁶ _____ lunch.