



The past perfect: affirmative

We use the past perfect to talk about something that happened at an earlier time in the past.

I'd spoken to him before.

We form the past perfect with subject + **had** + past participle. We often use the short form 'd.

We'd eaten breakfast.

We often use the past perfect with the past simple. Use the past simple to talk about a completed action in the past and the past perfect to talk about something that happened before that.

Past simple

I went to the cinema

Past perfect

because I'd heard the film was very good.

1 Circle the correct answers.

- We met the man who **had discover** / **had discovered** the treasure.
- Jenny felt ill because she 'd **ate** / 'd **eaten** too many olives.
- Rob showed us the place where he 'd **seen** / 'd **saw** the horse.
- The teacher told us that the island **had changed** / **hadn't change** since she was at school.
- I couldn't remember his name, but I knew that I'd **meet** / 'd **met** him before.
- We were happy that it **had rained** / **had rain**.
- The reason we got lost is because we'd **taken** / 'd **took** the wrong path.
- She didn't know that I 'd **been** / 'd **gone** ill.

2 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I came home after I 'd finished (finish) the shopping.
- 2 We were happy because the museum _____ (be) so interesting.
- 3 The boys arrived home late after they _____ (miss) the school bus.
- 4 Everyone was hot because they _____ (put on) thick coats.
- 5 We didn't play for long as I _____ (tell) Mum I would be home early.
- 6 The shop _____ (deliver) Sally's present to the wrong address, but it arrived in time.
- 7 Mum was angry with Andy because she _____ (wait) a long time for him.
- 8 I was hoping to see you at the park, but you _____ (leave) when I got there.

3 Look at the picture. Sidney was getting ready for a camping trip. What had he done by midday? Write sentences with the past perfect.



- 1 buy / a new rucksack
He'd bought a new rucksack.
- 2 read / a book about camping

- 3 prepare / some food and water

- 4 borrow / Dad's compass

- 5 clean / his boots

- 6 look for / information on the Internet

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a circle of large and very heavy stones in the south of England. It is a very mysterious place. Historians don't know how old Stonehenge is. Some say it was built 5000 years ago.

Archaeologists discovered that the stones used to make Stonehenge **hadn't come** from the local area. They found that people **had transported** the stones all the way from the Preseli hills, 250 kilometres away. How did people move these huge stones before they **had invented the wheel**?



The past perfect: negative and questions

 We form the past perfect negative with subject + **hadn't** + past participle. Remember **hadn't = had not**.
I hadn't spoken to him before.

We form past perfect questions with **had** + subject + past participle. We form short answers with **had** or **hadn't**.
Had you eaten breakfast before your exam?
Yes, I had. OR No, I hadn't.

4 Tick (✓) the sentences that are correct.

- 1 The car was in good condition because it hadn't been used much.
The car had been in good condition because it didn't be used much.
- 2 Gary emailed George because he didn't write to him for a long time.
Gary emailed George because he hadn't written to him for a long time.
- 3 Had you been to Stonehenge before today?
Had you go to Stonehenge before today?
- 4 Penny was late for school because she hadn't left home on time.
Penny was late for school because she didn't left home on time.
- 5 How long had you wait before the bus came?
How long had you waited before the bus came?

5 Rewrite the sentences. Use the negative form of the past perfect.

1 Jenny had left when we arrived.

Jenny hadn't left when we arrived.

2 Charlie had run a long way to get to school.

3 Jasper and Edward had bought the last two concert tickets.

4 The weather had been sunny all week.

5 The builders had made a lot of mistakes.

6 The coins had been buried for thousands of years.

7 I'd spoken to the new boy.

8 The ship had sunk a hundred miles from the coast.

6 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect and the past simple.

1 Mum bought the ingredients. Then she made the cake.

After Mum had bought the ingredients, she made the cake.

2 They found the evidence. Then they arrested the man.

After _____

3 Our team played a difficult match. The players were very tired.

After _____

4 The boat hit an iceberg. Then it sank.

After _____

5 I wrote to my penfriend. Then he phoned me.

After _____

6 They explored the area. Then they found the carvings.

After _____

7 The boys solved the clues. Then they discovered the treasure.

After _____

8 They decided to sail east. The weather got worse.

After _____

7 Answer the questions. Use the past perfect.



Why didn't Mrs Robertson make the cake?
Because she hadn't bought any eggs.



Why was George sad?
Because _____



Why didn't the children play football?
Because _____



Why was Fred late to school?
Because _____



Why didn't Olly finish his project?
Because _____



Why was Carla so hungry yesterday?
Because _____



Why didn't the girls buy an ice cream?
Because _____



Why did the journalist interview Ethan?
Because _____

8 Look at the table. Write the questions and short answers with the past perfect.

	use a compass	go rock climbing	look for treasure	see a shipwreck	meet an explorer
Ryan	X	X	✓	X	✓
Tommy	✓	✓	X	X	X
Martin	X	✓	X	X	✓
Maddy	✓	X	✓	X	X
Beth	X	X	✓	X	✓

Before last summer ...

1 Ryan / use a compass

Had Ryan used a compass? No, he hadn't.

2 Ryan / look for treasure

3 Tommy / look for treasure

4 Martin and Beth / meet an explorer

5 Martin / use a compass

6 Tommy and Martin / go rock climbing

7 Maddy and Beth / look for treasure

8 any of the children / see a shipwreck

9 Look at exercise 8. Write true sentences for yourself. Use the past perfect.

Before last summer ...

1 use a compass _____

2 go rock climbing _____

3 look for treasure _____

4 see a shipwreck _____

5 meet an explorer _____