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 [d] Sheila was happy
2 [ ] I hadn't seen an elephant
3 [ ] By the time I got up,
4 [ ] We had never been abroad before
5 [ ] John read the book after
6 [ ] We were tired because

a he'd seen the film.
b we went to France.
c we had walked for hours.
d ~~because she'd passed her exam~~.
e my parents had had breakfast.
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 / had studied* a lot of thrillers before I *wrote / 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] _____ our umbrellas. 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS