Past Perfect

A Surprise at the Airport

Last summer, Julia planned a trip to Mexico with her best friend. They **arrived** at the airport very early because they **didn't want** to miss their flight. However, when they **reached** the check-in desk, Julia realized she **had forgotten** her passport at home.

Luckily, her brother **was** already on his way to the airport because Julia **had called** him before she **left** home. He **arrived** just in time with the passport. By the time Julia **checked in**, the airline **had already closed** one of the counters, but she **was** still able to board the plane.

When Julia finally **sat** on the airplane, she **felt** relieved. She was happy because her brother **had saved** her vacation.

Grammar: Past Perfect

We use the **Past Perfect** to talk about an action that happened **before another action in the past**. It shows which action happened **first**.

Structure: Subject + had + past participle + complement

Examples:

- I **had finished** my homework before dinner.
- She **had left** when I arrived.
- They **had never visited** Bogotá before last year.

Timeline

First Action: Past Perfect → Second Action: Past Simple

Example: **I had eaten breakfast before I went to school.**

- **First**: I ate breakfast.
- **Second**: I went to school.

Affirmative

Subject + had + past participle: I had finished

Negative

Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle: She hadn't finished **her project.**

Questions

Had + subject + past participle...?: **Had** you **finished** your homework?

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Exercise 1: Match:

1. She had finished her homework.
2. We had left home.
3. They had already eaten.
4. I had cleaned my room.
5. He had gone to bed.

a. before the guests arrived.
b. before the bus came.
c. before dinner started.
d. before his parents came home.
e. before the teacher checked it.

Exercise 2: complete with past perfect

- She _____ (finish) her homework before dinner.
- We _____ (leave) before the rain started.
- They _____ already _____ (eat) lunch.
- I _____ (never/see) snow before that trip.
- My father _____ (buy) the tickets before we arrived.

Exercise 3: Choose the correct answer.

1. By the time we arrived, the movie: started / had started / starts
2. She ____ dinner before her friends came: had cooked / cooks / cooked
3. They ____ the museum before it closed: visited / have visited / had visited
4. I ____ my homework before I watched TV: had finished / finish / have finished
5. We ____ our bags before leaving home: packed / had packed / pack

Exercise 4: organize the sentences

- had / before / she / left / arrived / I
- movie / had / started / the / already
- homework / finished / had / we / our
- had / they / dinner / eaten / before / arrived / we
- never / had / visited / he / Paris

Exercise 5: Complete

Yesterday, Tom was late for school. He _____ (wake up) late because he _____ (forget) to set his alarm. He _____ (not prepare) his backpack the night before. By the time he left the house, the school bus _____ already _____ (leave). The first class _____ already _____ (start).

LIVEWORKSHEETS