



Grammar in context

Let's practise!

1 Circle the correct alternative to complete the rules. 4

- 1 We form the past perfect with *had* + present/past participle.
- 2 We use the past perfect when we talk about actions that happened before/after another action or actions in the past.

2 Which two time expressions do we not use with the past perfect?

after = as soon as = by the time
recently = when = while

3 Match the halves to make sentences. Then underline the thing which happened first in each sentence. Is the verb in the past simple or the past perfect?

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|---|-------|
| 1 After we had had the argument | |
| 2 By the time I realised my mistake | |
| 3 She started reading a new book | |
| 4 They hadn't eaten anything all day | ..... |
| 5 When they had had their dinner | ..... |
| 6 He didn't swim | ..... |
| 7 They had won the competition | ..... |
| a they washed the dishes. | ..... |
| b so they had a party to celebrate. | ..... |
| c I did something stupid. | ..... |
| d because he had forgotten to bring his towel. | ..... |
| e so they ordered a big pizza. | ..... |
| f I had sent the nasty message. | ..... |
| g because she had finished the one she was reading. | ..... |

4 Look at these important dates in history and write positive or negative sentences with the past perfect.

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|---|---|
| 1 4500 BC – invent the wheel | ✓ |
| By 4500 BC they had invented the wheel. | |
| 2 1400 – start to print books | ✗ |
| 3 1805 – make the first battery | ✓ |
| 4 1895 – discover X-rays | ✓ |
| 5 1900 – fly for the first time | ✗ |
| 6 1910 – discover penicillin | ✗ |
| 7 1932 – split the atom | ✓ |
| 8 1953 – find the structure of DNA | ✓ |
| 9 1960 – walk on the moon | ✗ |

Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.
(she / go / out) She had gone out.
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.
(it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.
(the film / already / start)
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.
(she / just / have / breakfast)