



Grammar in context

Let's practise!

1 Circle the correct alternative to complete the rules. 4

- We form the past perfect with *had* + present/past participle.
- 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?

- After we had had the argument
 - By the time I realised my mistake
 - She started reading a new book
 - They hadn't eaten anything all day
 - When they had had their dinner
 - He didn't swim
 - 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.

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

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

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

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