

Past Simple vs Past Perfect Exercises

1. Choose Past Simple or Past Perfect tense.

The wind blew / had blown away the leaves that we collected / had collected.
She threw / had thrown away the letter that she wrote / had written.
They showed / had shown me the pictures, they took / had taken during their holidays.
In the evening the children told / had told their daddy what they saw / had seen at the zoo.
The boy was / had been very sorry for what he did / had done.

2. Put the verbs into the Simple Past or Past Perfect tense.

My friend (eat) _____ up all the biscuits we (bake) _____ .
The teacher (correct) _____ the tests we (write) _____.
I (give) _____ them some of the candies I (buy) _____.
My sister (see / not) _____ the note that I (lay) _____ on the kitchen table for her.
We (want) _____ to watch a film that we (see / not) _____ before.

3. Choose Past Simple or Past Perfect tense.

When Simon went / had gone out to play, he already did / had already done his homework.
Jenny came / had come home, sat / had sat down and switched / had switched on the TV.
Before that day in winter, the African boy never saw / had never seen snow in his life.
She gave / had given me the book that she read / had read.
We visited / had visited the museum that our friend told / had told us about a month before.

4. Put the verbs into the Simple Past or Past Perfect tense.

1. When he (wake up) _____, his mother (already / prepare) _____ breakfast.
2. We (go) _____ to London because the Queen (invite) _____ us for tea.
3. He (hear) _____ the news, (go) _____ to the telephone and (call) _____ a friend.
4. When she (start) _____ to learn English, she (already / learn) _____ French.
5. Jane (already / type) _____ ten pages when her computer (crash) _____.
6. By the time he (arrive) _____ at the pub, they (run) _____ out of beer.
7. Before that day we (never / think) _____ of going to Japan.
8. I (know) _____ him for a long time before I (meet) _____ his family.
9. They (not / know) _____ where to meet because nobody (tell) _____ them.
10. It (be) _____ cloudy for days before it finally (begin) _____ to rain.