



Grammar 1

Past perfect simple, past perfect continuous

1 Read about the uses of the past perfect simple and the past perfect continuous.

Past perfect simple

- an action or situation that finished before a particular time in the past
*Dina **had finished** the shopping by two o'clock.*
- an action that happened before another action in the past
*The shop **had closed** by the time Jimmy **got** there.*

*He **had been working on** his new gadget when he **cut** his hand.*

- an action that happened before another action in the past when we want to emphasise how long it happened for
*They **had been taking** guitar lessons for months before they finally **decided** to order a guitar.*
- an action that finished before a particular time in the past and had a result that we could see
*Molly **had been working hard** all week and she **looked** very tired.*

Past perfect continuous

- an action that started in the past and was still in progress when another action started or when something happened

2 Read the sentences. Which perfect tenses do they use? Which sentence could be changed into a question using *How long*?

- Irene could send text messages because she had bought a new phone the day before.
- Irene had been texting her friend all morning before she finally got a reply.

Read 4.1-4.2 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 Use the verb in bold to complete each pair of sentences. Use the past perfect simple and the past perfect continuous.

- look
 - Brad _____ for his sales receipt for an hour before he found it in the kitchen.
 - Brad _____ for his sales receipt in his wallet and in all the shopping bags before he found it in the kitchen.
- buy
 - Julia _____ rare books for ages, so she had a lot of them.
 - By the time Julia was twenty, she _____ more than fifty rare books.
- design
 - Kent _____ so many efficient gadgets by the time he retired that his company gave him an award.
 - Kent _____ efficient gadgets for a long time, so he was very good at it.
- shop
 - Tina knew the flea market had good prices because she _____ there before.
 - Tina had no money left because she _____ at the flea market all morning.

4 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect simple or the past perfect continuous.

- After the shoppers _____ (leave) the department store, the cleaners started to mop the floors.
- The shop owner _____ (not open) his shop that day because it was a holiday.
- Melanie _____ (search) for a special party dress for months before she found the perfect one online.
- _____ (they / invent) the Blackberry by the year 2000?
- My aunt _____ (read) traditional books for ages when she decided to buy an e-reader in 2010.
- We _____ (just buy) a tablet when a newer design became available in shops.
- _____ (you / use) the smartphone for long when the screen went blank?
- My mum _____ (learn) how to sew while she was in school, so she was able to make all her own outfits.



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Grammar 2

Past perfect tenses, past simple

1 Read about the past perfect tenses vs past simple.

In some sentences which talk about the past, it is clear which action happened first. In this case, we can use the past simple for both actions. However, when the order of events is not clear, or when we want to emphasise which action happened first, we can use the past perfect simple or the past perfect continuous for the first action.

Mona **did/had done** her shopping before she **met** her friend for lunch.

We **knew** later that we **had spent** too much money at the car-boot sale.

They **had been waiting** for ages before a shop assistant **came** to help them.

Note: We must use the past simple for both actions when one past action happens quickly after another.
When my dog **heard** the loud thunder, it **hid** under my bed.

2 Complete three of these sentences using the past simple in one of the gaps, and the past perfect simple or the past perfect continuous in the other gap. In which sentence do we have to use the past simple in both gaps? Why?

- He _____ (try on) the jacket before he _____ (go) to the check out to pay for it.
- Karen _____ (realise) the next day that the footwear she _____ (buy) was no longer in fashion.
- Right after I _____ (break) my new mobile phone, I _____ (start) to cry.
- They _____ (stand) outside the shop for ages when it finally _____ (open).

Read 4.3 of the Grammar Reference before you do the tasks.

3 Read the sentences and underline the action that happened first.

- We had been shopping for hours before we found a tablet that we liked.
- Elena realised later that she had left her sales receipt at the bookshop.
- As soon as he saw the gTar in an advert, Jim ordered it online.
- When we had made our purchases, we took the bags out to the car.
- By the time Lily got home, Mum had put away all the clean clothes.
- They had just bought an expensive Blackberry when they saw the same one on special offer.
- The shoppers had been waiting for a long time when the owner finally opened the doors of his shop.
- Dora went back home because she had forgotten her handbag.
- After Jill went to the bank, she lent me fifty euros.
- Petro pushed a button on the keyboard and the DVD started to play.



4 Complete the sentences. Use the past simple where possible. If the past simple is not possible, use the past perfect simple or the past perfect continuous.

- Before they realised they were in debt, my parents _____ (spend) too much money for years.
- By the time his friends came to get him, Jules _____ (put on) his costume.
- The teenagers tried out the gadget for themselves after Clark _____ (show) them how it worked.
- Karen's clothes fitted her better because she _____ (lose) some weight.
- My sister _____ (wait) for weeks when the shoes finally went on special offer.
- Three weeks ago, I _____ (start) the sewing course.
- Pam _____ (clean) all morning before she went window-shopping.
- Before he saw the phone he wanted, Brett _____ (look round) the electronics shop for hours.

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