

PAST PERFECT

Form: had + past participle.

Use: a completed action before something in the past.

- I hadn't studied French before I moved to Paris.
- I couldn't find my way because I had lost my map.
- She had had her washing machine for 10 years before it broke down.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Form: had been + verb + ing

Use: Duration before something in the past.

- We had been waiting at the bus-stop for over half an hour when the bus finally arrived.
- Janet was tired because she had been correcting exam papers all day.
- How long had you been studying French before you moved to Paris.

Put the verbs in brackets into the Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous

1. _____ (you/study) French before you _____ (move) to France?
2. How long _____ (you/wait) to get on the bus?
3. I _____ (not have) any money because I _____ (lose) my purse.
4. I _____ (try) to get through to her for months before she finally _____ (answer) my email.
5. I _____ (never/go) to the theatre before last night.
6. James _____ (teach) at the university for more than a year before he _____ (go) to Asia.
7. The old woman _____ (want) to sit down because she _____ (stand) for a long time.
8. They _____ (feel) bad about selling the house because they _____ (own) it for more than forty years.
9. We couldn't get a hotel room anywhere because we _____ (not/book) in advance.
10. We _____ (have) that car for ten years before it _____ (break) down.

Can you answer these questions using the correct tense?
Write full sentences.

- a. Had you ever visited the U.S. before your trip in 2006? (Parents in 2003)
- b. How long had you been studying Turkish before you moved to Ankara? (2 years)
- c. How come Brenda knew London so well? (Visit/several times before)
- d. Why were they a bit lost when they first moved to Rome? (not/study/Italian)
- e. Why was John tired? (jog)
- f. How long had they been eating before Carole arrived? (over an hour)
- g. How long had Brian studied Spanish before he moved to Spain? (6 years at school)
- h. How long had Barbara been in London when she got her diploma? (over 8 years)
- i. Why had Sue lost so much weight? (stop/eating chocolate and cakes)
- j. How long had Christine been working at the company when it shut down? (15 years)

