

UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE USE

When do we use past perfect?



What is the correct grammar structure of past perfect tense?

⊕ **S + had + past participle + ...**
She had finished the test.

⊖ **S + had not/hadn't + past participle + ...**
She hadn't finished the test.

? **Had + S + past participle + ...?**
Had she finished the test?

Let's read some examples...

Usage

To describe an action finished before another past action

Example

Richard had gone out when his wife arrived in the office.

Describe an action that happened before a specific time in the past

Christine had never been to an opera before last night.

Usage**Example**

To describe cause and effect
(combine with Past Simple)

I got stuck in traffic because there had been an accident.

To emphasize the result of an activity in the past

I had been to London twice by the time I got a job in New York.

Now let's read three short stories to identify the language use in real situations...

NOBODY WAS SURPRISED



When Stella Karp won the marathon last week, nobody was surprised.

She **had got up** early and she **had jogged** every morning. She **had eaten** health foods several months. And she **had swum** fifty laps every day after school.

Stella Karp really deserved to win the marathon. After all, **she had been preparing** for it for a long time.

Read the short story again and choose the correct form of the verb, there are two example:

1. What **had** she **done** every morning?

She **had jogged** every morning.

2. What **had** she **been doing** for several months?

She **had been eating** health foods.

3. What **had** she **done** every day after school?

She _____ fifty laps every day after school.

4. Why did she deserve to win the marathon?

She deserved to win the marathon because she _____ for it for a long time.

NOBODY WAS SURPRISED



When my friend Stuart finally passed his driver's test the other day, nobody was surprised.

He **had been taking** lessons at driving school for several months. He **had practiced** driving with his father for the past several weeks. And he **had studied** the "rules of the road" in the driver's manual when he was a little boy.

My friend Stuart really deserved to pass his driver test. After all, he **had been preparing** for it for a long time.

Read the short story again and choose the correct form of the verb:

1. What had he been doing for several months?

He _____ lessons at driving school for several months.

2. What had he practiced for the past several weeks?

He _____ with his father for the past several weeks.

3. What had he done when he was a little boy?

He _____ the "rules of the road" in the driver's manual when he was a little boy.

4. Why did he deserve to pass his driver test?

He deserved to pass his driver test because he _____ for it for a long time.

NOBODY WAS SURPRISED



When Charlie Richards got fired last week, nobody was surprised.

He **had come** to work late and **had gone** home early for quite a while. He **had been gossiping** about his manager's private life frequently. And he **had insulted** customers almost every day.

Charlie Richards really deserved to get fired. After all, he **had been asking** for it for a long time!

Read the short story again and write your answer using the correct structure of past perfect tense.

1. What had he been doing for quite a while?

He _____ for quite a while.

2. What had he been doing about his manager's private's life?

He _____ about his manager's private life frequently.

3. How had he treated the customers?

He _____ almost every day.

4. Why did he deserve to get fired?

He deserved to get fired because _____ for a long time!