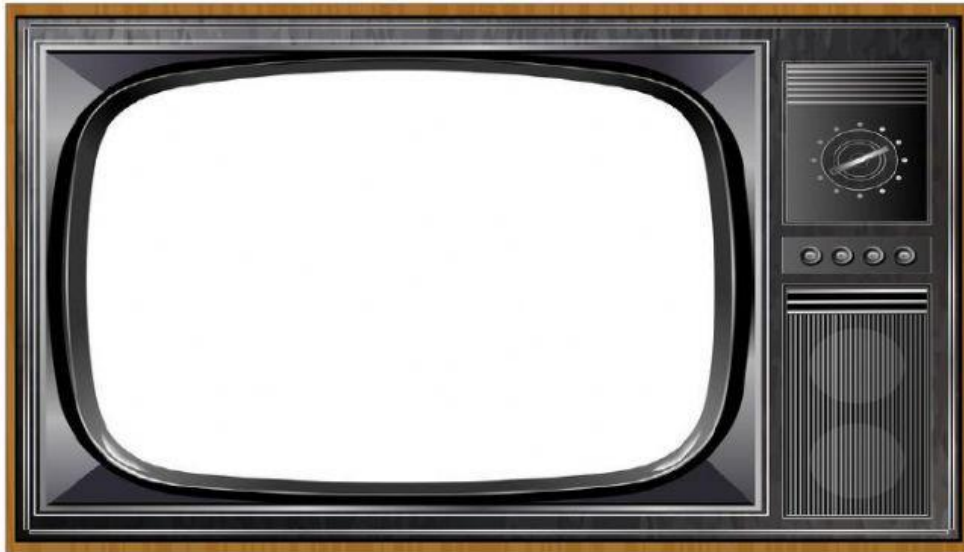


# UNDERSTANDING LANGUAGE USE

## When do we use past perfect?



## What is the correct grammar structure of past perfect tense?

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

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**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

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

### Example

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

Christine had never been to an opera  
before last night.

### Usage

To describe cause and effect  
(combine with Past Simple)

To emphasize the result of an  
activity in the past

### Example

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

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!