

LANGUAGE IN ACTION

Past perfect with *never*, *already*, *by (then)*, *by the time*

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

- 1 I had already had lunch when my sister arrived.
- 2 My sister had already got married by the time she was 20.
- 3 Dan wasn't happy because I had turned down his invitation.
- 4 By the time the match finished, we had scored five goals!
- 5 We had walked a very long way by the time we found the river.

2 Match the beginnings of the sentences (1–5) with the ends (a–e).

- 1 I had never seen snow
- 2 We had only been at the hotel a few minutes when
- 3 Had you ever run more than 5 km
- 4 By the time my granddad settled in England,
- 5 We had already been to six different shops

- a by the time Clara decided to buy something.
- b before today?
- c before I went to Sierra Nevada.
- d he'd lived in six different countries.
- e the storm started.

(c)

3 Put the words in the correct order to make sentences.

- 1 car / seen / had / the / already
I had already seen the car.
- 2 had / then / back / by / come
Jack had then come back.
- 3 rang / woken up / you / I / when / already / ?
Had you already woken up when I rang?
- 4 abroad / never / year / had / last / been / I
Before I had never been abroad last year.
- 5 then / a snake / ever / you / before / seen / ?
Had you ever seen a snake before then?

4 Complete the sentences with the past simple or the past perfect.

- 1 Pablo had never had (never / have) guitar lessons before he gave (give) his first concert.
- 2 Sean (Sean / ever make) lasagne before today?
- 3 School already (already / start) when I arrive.
- 4 By the time Sara left (leave) England, she learned (learn) to speak English very well.
- 5 I never (never / feel) real terror until I saw (see) that film!
- 6 everyone (everyone / already / go) to bed by the time the fire started (start)?

5 Complete the text with the past simple or the past perfect.

Emma¹ move (move) to a new school last year. By the time she² be (be) there a couple of weeks, she³ already (already / settle) down very well. And now things are going even better! Last week she⁴ become (become) the captain of the school football team.

She⁵ be (be) very happy about this because she⁶ always (always / want) to be the team captain. And yesterday she⁷ receive (receive) her exam results. More good news! She⁸ never (never / get) all top marks before!



6 Complete the sentences with your own ideas. Use the past perfect.

- 1 Before this year, I never do (do) ...
- 2 We didn't win the match because we never try (try) ...
- 3 I signed up for karate lessons because I never try (try) ...
- 4 By the time Ella finished university, she already get (get) a job.
- 5 Max was going through a hard time because he never get (get) help.