

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE - meaning

This is the “*pastest*” past in the English language.

When do we use the **PAST PERFECT**? Read the sentences below and choose the correct option:

- By the time he decided to volunteer, Jason **had already learnt** how to drive.
- Before he decided to volunteer, Jason **had never lived** in Paraguay.
- Jason **had studied** Biology *long before* he decided to volunteer.

The PAST PERFECT is used to talk about an event which happened: **a.before** / **b.after** another event in the past. ☐



PAST PERFECT SIMPLE - form

hadn't had x2 finished x2
had not/hadn't had'd

POSITIVE/NEGATIVE FORMS		
I/You/He/She/It/ We/They	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> school by five o'clock.
QUESTION FORMS AND SHORT ANSWERS		
<input type="text"/>	I/you/he/she/it/ we/they	<input type="text"/> school by five o'clock?
Yes,	I/you/he/she/it/ we/they	<input type="text"/>
No,	I/you/he/she/it/ we/they	<input type="text"/>

We often use the past perfect with **never**, **ever**, **already** and **just**. We put these words between **had** and the main verb.

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE - uses

Match the examples with the explanation:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. My parents had left when I arrived home. | a. talk about situations that have changed. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. By nine o'clock, I'd phoned three people and had sent three emails. | b. explain past events or situations, or give background information |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. He'd drunk nothing all day, so he was really thirsty. | c. say what was completed before a specific past time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. I'd planned to finish writing my essay this morning, but I've got a terrible headache. | d. make the order of past events clear. The past perfect describes something that happened before an action in the past. |