TRAVEL BY SEA: The FIRST and LAST VOYAGE of the TITANIC

Read the following article. Pay special attention to the words in bold. 4.3

The year was 1912. The railroad across the United States **had** already **been built**. The Wright brothers **had** already **made** their first successful flight. Henry Ford **had produced** his first car. The *Titanic*—the ship of dreams—**had** just **been built** and was ready to make its first voyage from England to America, with over 2,000 people aboard[1].

The *Titanic* was the most magnificent[2] ship that **had** ever **been built**. It had luxuries that ships **had** never **had** before: electric light, elevators, a swimming pool, libraries, and more. It was built to give its first-class passengers all the comforts of the best hotels. Some of the wealthiest people in the world were on the *Titanic*. But not everyone on the *Titanic* was rich. Most of the passengers in third class were emigrants who **had left** behind their home country in hopes of finding a better life in America.

The *Titanic* began its voyage on April 10. The winter **had been** unusually mild, and by spring large blocks of ice **had broken** away from the Arctic region. On April 14, at 11:40 p.m., an iceberg was spotted right in the ship's path. The captain **had been receiving** warnings about ice, but he wasn't worried about it; he didn't realize how much danger the ship was in. The captain tried to reverse the direction of the ship, but it was too late. The ship was moving too fast. The *Titanic* hit the iceberg and started to sink. The ship was designed to hold 32 lifeboats, but 12 of those lifeboats **had been removed** before sailing to make the ship look more elegant[3]. There were enough lifeboats for only about half of the people aboard.

While the ship was sinking, some passengers were being put on lifeboats. First-class passengers boarded[4] the lifeboats before second- and third-class passengers. By the time the third-class passengers came up from their cabins, most of the lifeboats **had** already **left**. Within two hours and forty-five minutes, the ship **had sunk**.

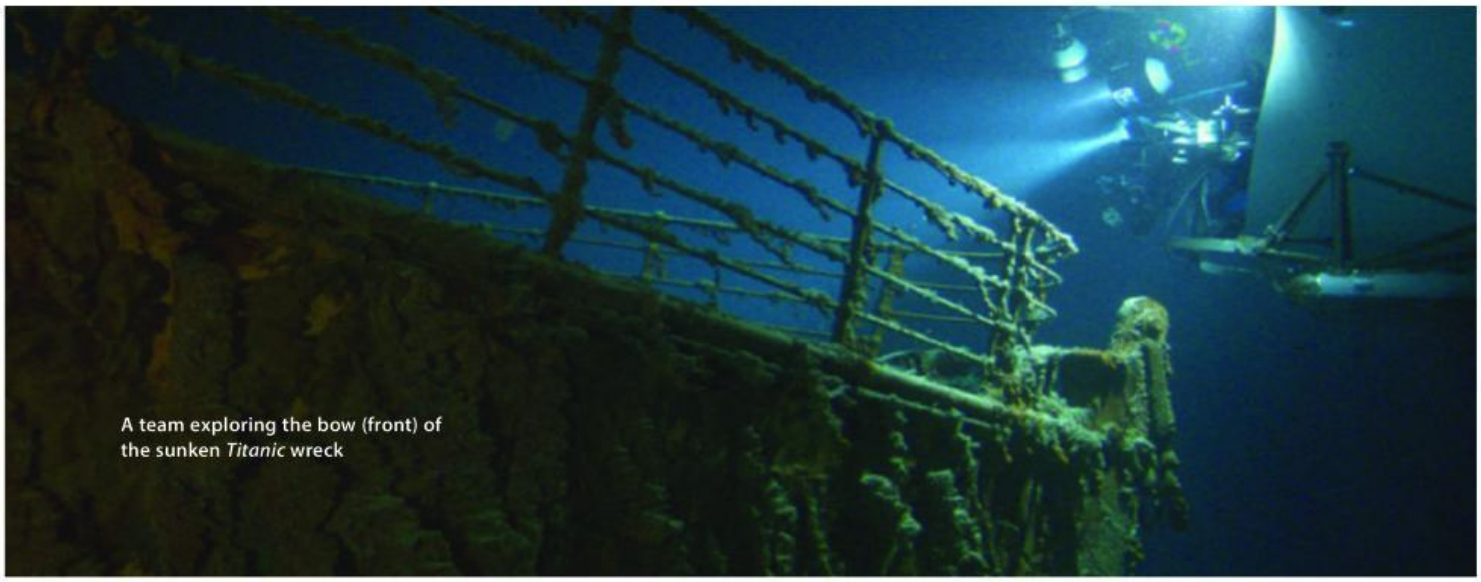
Cold and afraid, people waited in the lifeboats all night, not knowing if they would be saved or if their loved ones **had survived**. In the early morning, the *Carpathia*, the ship that **had responded** to the *Titanic*'s call for help, arrived to rescue the survivors. Only one-third of the passengers survived this disaster.

1 aboard: on a ship
2 magnificent: very beautiful or impressive
3 elegant: stylish in appearance
4 to board: to enter a ship, airplane, train, etc.



Painting of the sunken *Titanic*

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A team exploring the bow (front) of the sunken *Titanic* wreck

COMPREHENSION Based on the reading, write T for *true* or F for *false*.

1. _____ By the time the *Titanic* was built, the airplane had already been invented.
2. _____ There were enough lifeboats for most of the passengers.
3. _____ The *Titanic* sank in under an hour.

THINK ABOUT IT Discuss the questions with a partner or in a small group.

1. Why were 12 of the 32 lifeboats removed before the voyage of the *Titanic*? Why do you think the safety of the passengers was not as much a concern?
2. What is another deep sea discovery that has been made? Would you like to dive to such sites? Explain your answer.

4.4 The Past Perfect — Form

HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE

SUBJECT	*HAD (+ NOT)*	PAST PARTICIPLE	
The previous winter	**had**	**been**	mild.
The captain	**had not**	**understood**	the danger.

Notes:

1. Pronouns (except *it*) can be contracted with *had*: *I'd, you'd, she'd, he'd, we'd, they'd.*
   The captain knew about the ice. ***He'd*** *had a chance to turn the ship around, but he didn't.*
2. The contraction for *had not* is *hadn't.*
   He ***hadn't*** *paid attention to the warnings.*
3. Apostrophe + *d* (*'d*) can be a contraction for both *had* or *would*. The verb form following the contraction indicates what the contraction means.
   They'd *left the ship. = They had left the ship.*
   They'd *leave the ship. = They would leave the ship.*
4. An adverb can be placed between *had* and the past participle.
   Some passengers ***had never been*** *on a ship before.*
5. The past perfect of the passive voice is *had been* + past participle.
   The Titanic ***had been built*** *as a luxury ship.*

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STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

STATEMENTS	*YES/NO* QUESTIONS & SHORT ANSWERS	*WH-* QUESTIONS
The captain **had received** several warnings.	**A: Had** he **received** warnings early enough? **B:** Yes, he **had**.	How many warnings **had** he **received**?
He **hadn't realized** the danger he was in.	**A: Had** he **paid** attention to the warnings? **B:** No, he **hadn't**.	Why **hadn't** he **paid** attention to the warnings?
Some people **had gotten** on lifeboats immediately.	**A: Had** third-class passengers **gotten** on lifeboats immediately? **B:** No, they **hadn't**.	How many people **had gotten** on lifeboats?

EXERCISE 5 This is the story of a young passenger on the *Titanic*. Fill in the correct past perfect using one of the verbs from the box. If you see an adverb given, include that with the verb.

be	die	happen	jump	leave	meet	pass away	say ✓	survive

Jack Thayer was a 17-year-old passenger on the *Titanic*, traveling with his parents.

He had just said (1. just) goodnight to his parents and was getting ready to go to bed when he felt a bump. He and his father went out to see what _____ (2.). At first, the passengers remained calm. But one of the ship's designers, whom the Thayers _____ (3.) several times during the short voyage, told them that the *Titanic* would not last an hour.

Passengers were trying to get on the lifeboats, but many lifeboats _____ (4. already) half full. Thayer got separated from his parents. As the ship was sinking, he jumped into the icy water and swam to an overturned boat. He heard splashes and the cries of passengers who _____ (5.) into the icy waters. Thayer spent the night not knowing if his parents were dead or alive. In the morning, the passengers in the lifeboats were rescued by the *Carpathia*. It was then that he learned that his mother _____ (6.) but, unfortunately, his father _____ (7.).

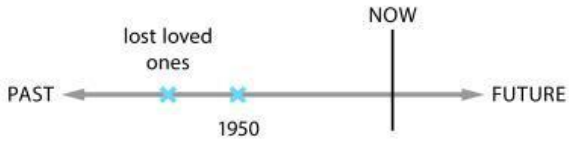
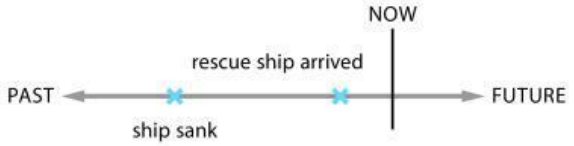
Thirty years later, he wrote his story about that tragic night. But his account was never published. In April 2012, on the 100th anniversary of the tragedy, his story was published.

Jack Thayer faced another tragedy in his life. His son, who _____ (8.) a fighter pilot, was killed in World War II. This was an especially sad time for him because his mother _____ (9.) the same year.

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4.5 The Past Perfect — Use (Part 1)

When showing the time relationship between past events, the past perfect is used to show the event that took place first.

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
By 1950, Jack Thayer **had written** about his experience.  	The past perfect can be used with *by* + a time reference. The past perfect shows that something occurred before that time.
time clause main clause **By the time** the rescue ship **arrived**, the *Titanic* **had sunk**.  main clause time clause I **had** never **heard** of Jack Thayer **until** I **read** about it today.	The past perfect can be used in a sentence with a time clause. The time clause shows the later past event and uses the simple past. The main clause shows the earlier past event and uses the past perfect.
When Jack's family got on the *Titanic*, they **had never been** on such a luxurious trip **before**. When Jack was rescued in the morning, he **hadn't learned** about his father's death **yet**.	*Never … before* or *not … yet* can be used in the main clause to emphasize the earlier time.
The ship **had been** at sea **for five days** when it hit an iceberg.	The past perfect can be used in the main clause with *for* + a time period to show the duration of the earlier past action.
Before he **jumped** into the water, he**('d) put** on a life jacket. Many years **before** he **died**, he **had written** his personal story and **given** copies to family and friends.	In sentences with a time clause that begins with *before* or *after*, the simple past is often used in both clauses. The past perfect is more common if the earlier event does not immediately precede the later one.
It **was** 1913. Most people **had heard** about the tragedy.	We can start with a simple past sentence and follow it with a past perfect sentence to go further back in time.

EXERCISE 6 Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past perfect of the verb given.

1. By 1912, the airplane had already been invented (passive: already/invent).
2. By the time the *Titanic* _____ (leave) England, some of the lifeboats _____ (passive: remove) to make the ship look more elegant.
3. By the spring of 1912, pieces of ice _____ (break) away from the Arctic region.
4. The captain _____ (receive) several warnings by the time the ship _____ (hit) the iceberg.

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5. Jack _____ (be) in his cabin for a short time when he _____ (realize) that there was a problem.

6. When Jack _____ (feel) a bump, many passengers _____ (already/go) to bed.

7. By the time Jack Thayer _____ (jump) into the water, he _____ (get) separated from his parents.

8. He _____ (spend) the night in a lifeboat by the time he _____ (passive: rescue).

9. When the rescue ship _____ (arrive), most of the passengers _____ (already/die).

10. When the *Titanic* _____ (passive: find) in 1985, it _____ (be) on the ocean floor for 73 years.

EXERCISE 7 Read the sentences below. Decide which underlined time or event took place first. Write *1* above the first action or event and *2* above the second.

1. When the Lewis and Clark expedition traveled to the West, no one had done it before.
2. They finally entered a territory that no white man had ever entered before.
3. It was 1804. For almost 20 years, President Jefferson had thought about sending an expedition to the West.
4. The expedition had traveled more than 600 miles by the end of July.
5. Up to this time, most of the trip had been done by boat.
6. Lewis and Clark were the first white Americans to go west of the Rocky Mountains. But these lands had been occupied by native people for a long time.
7. Many American Indians had never seen a white man before they met Lewis and Clark.
8. Only one man had died by the end of the expedition.
9. He had died long before the expedition ended.
10. They returned to St. Louis almost two and a half years after they had left.

GRAMMAR IN USE

The past perfect is not used as often as the simple past. If the time is clear, we use the simple past. However, there are times when the past perfect is needed.

*Jack **left** for Brazil yesterday.* (*Yesterday* makes the time clear.)

*Before he **left**, he said "good-bye" to all his friends.* (*Before* makes time clear.)

*By the time he arrived in Brazil, he **had read** his travel guide.* (*By the time* indicates a time period leading up to a past time, which requires the past perfect.)

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4.6 *When* with the Simple Past or the Past Perfect

Sometimes *when* means *after*. Sometimes *when* means *before*.

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
When Jack Thayer got on the *Carpathia*, he **found** his mother. **When** Jack Thayer was rescued, he **had been** in a lifeboat all night.	If the simple past is used in the main clause, *when* means *soon after*. If the past perfect is used in the main clause, *when* means *before*.

EXERCISE 8 Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb given. Use the simple past to show that *when* means *after*. Use the past perfect to show that *when* means *before*.

1. When the *Titanic* was first shown to the public, people had never seen (never/see) such a magnificent ship before.
2. When the ship left England, 12 lifeboats _____ (passive: remove).
3. The captain _____ (receive) several warnings when the ship hit the iceberg.
4. When Jack Thayer felt a bump, he _____ (go) to investigate.
5. When the passengers heard a loud noise, they _____ (run) to get on the lifeboats.
6. When the *Titanic* sent out a call for help, a rescue ship _____ (come) to pick up the survivors.
7. When he died, his story _____ (passive: not/yet/ publish).
8. When his story was published, people _____ (learn) more about what had happened that night.
9. When I saw the movie *Titanic*, I _____ (tell) my friends about it.
10. When I saw the movie *Titanic*, I _____ (never/hear) of this ship before.

ABOUT YOU Think about important past events in your life (good or bad). Then complete the sentences. When you are sure your sentences are correct, discuss them with a partner.

*When I **moved** to California, I **bought** a used car.*
*When I **moved** to California, I **had never spoken** to a native English speaker.*

1. When _____ (past event), I _____ (simple past).
2. When _____ (past event), I _____ (past perfect).
3. When _____ (past event), I _____ (simple past).
4. When _____ (past event), I _____ (past perfect).
5. When _____ (past event), I _____ (simple past).
6. When _____ (past event), I _____ (past perfect).

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4.7 The Past Perfect — Use (Part 2)

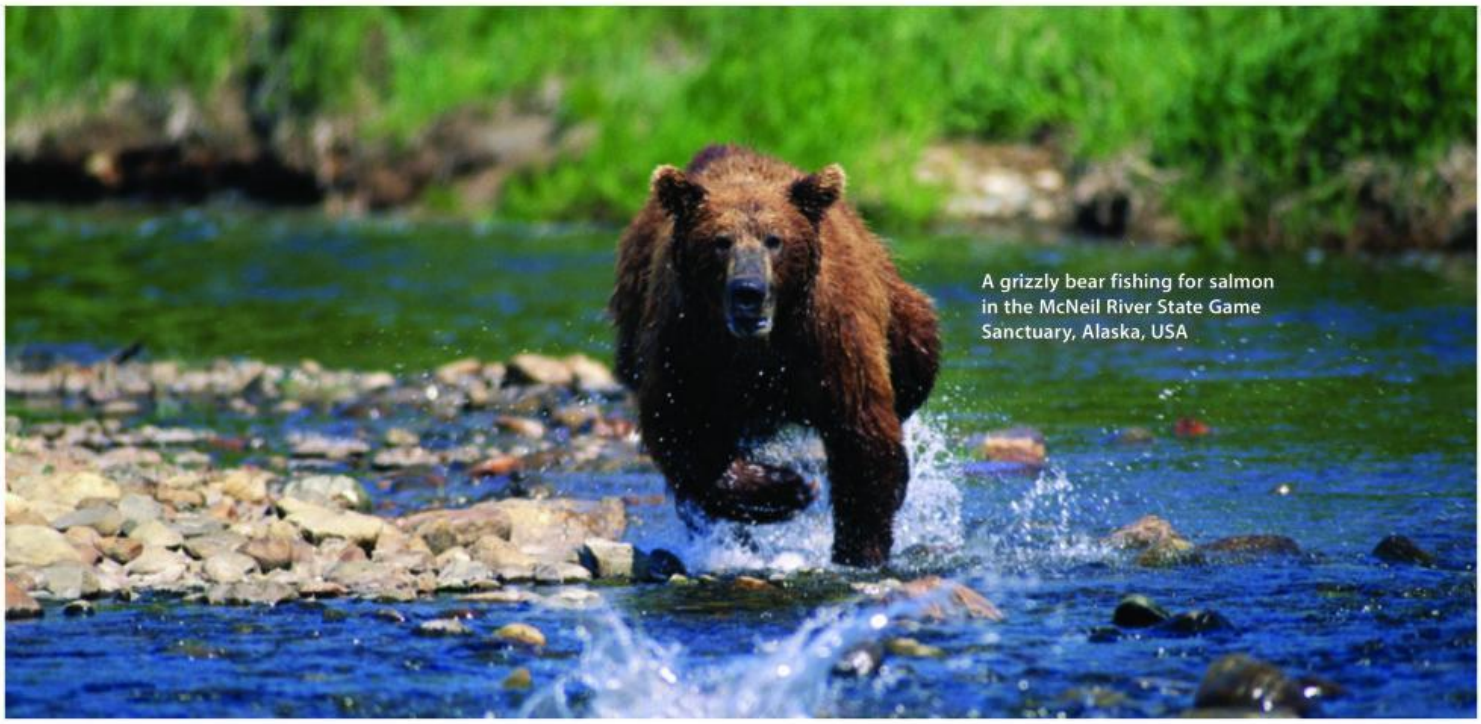
EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Many people **died because** the lifeboats **had left** half empty. Jack **survived because** he **had jumped** into the water and **swum** to a lifeboat.	The past perfect is often used in a *because* clause to show that something happened before the verb in the main clause.
The captain **didn't realize** that his ship **had come** so close to an iceberg. Until he was rescued, Jack **didn't know** that his mother **had survived**.	The past perfect can be used in a noun clause when the main verb is past. (A noun clause begins with *know that, think that, realize that,* etc.)*
The *Titanic* **was the most** magnificent ship that **had ever been** built.	In a past sentence with the superlative form, the past perfect is used with *ever.*
One of the ship's designers, **whom** the Thayer family **had met**, **told** them that the ship would not last an hour.	The past perfect can be used in an adjective clause. (An adjective clause begins with *who, that, which, whom,* or *whose.*)**

*For more about noun clauses, see Unit 10.
**For more about adjective clauses, see Unit 7.

EXERCISE 9 Complete each sentence by circling the correct verb form. Use both the simple past and the past perfect in the same sentence.

1. Jack Thayer and his father (*went/had gone*) to investigate because they (*felt/had felt*) a bump.
2. Jack, who (*got/had gotten*) separated from his parents, (*jumped/had jumped*) into the water and was picked up by a lifeboat.
3. Some people in the lifeboats (*reported/had reported*) that they (*heard/had heard*) music as the ship was going down.
4. Jack was 17 years old. Losing his father (*was/had been*) the worst thing that (*ever happened/had ever happened*) to him.
5. Later, Jack (*became/had become*) depressed because his son and his mother (*died/had died*) in the same year.
6. People (*didn't know/hadn't known*) Jack Thayer's story because he (*didn't publish/hadn't published*) it.
7. Jack's family (*knew/had known*) about his story because he (*gave/had given*) them copies of it.
8. His story, which he (*wrote/had written*) in the 1940s, (*wasn't/hadn't been*) published until after his death.

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A grizzly bear fishing for salmon in the McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, Alaska, USA

EXERCISE 10 Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past perfect of the verbs given and any other words you see. Use both tenses in each item.

1. Lewis and Clark _____ (enter) a land that no white man _____ (ever/enter).
2. The expedition to the West _____ (be) one of the most dangerous journeys that anyone _____ (ever/do).
3. During the winter, they _____ (keep) busy writing reports about what they _____ (see).
4. During the winter, they _____ (repair) equipment that _____ (become) damaged.
5. They _____ (enter) grizzly bear territory. The American Indians _____ (warn) them about these dangerous animals, but they thought it wouldn't be a problem because they had rifles. They were wrong. The grizzly bear _____ (be) one of the most frightening animals they _____ (ever/meet).
6. On November 7, 1805, they saw a body of water. They _____ (think) that they _____ (reach) the Pacific Ocean. They were disappointed to learn that what they saw was just a river.

ABOUT YOU Fill in the blanks and discuss your answers with a partner. Talk about travel or transportation.

1. Until I was _____, I had never _____ before.
2. By the time I was _____ years old, I _____ already _____.

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4.8 The Past Perfect Continuous — Form

HAD BEEN + PRESENT PARTICIPLE

SUBJECT	*HAD (+ NOT)*	*BEEN*	PRESENT PARTICIPLE	
The *Titanic*	**had**	**been**	**crossing**	the Atlantic Ocean.
Jack Thayer	**had**	**been**	**waiting**	all night.
The captain	**had not**	**been**	**paying**	close attention.

Note:
An adverb can be placed between *had* and *been*.

*Jack had **probably** been thinking of his parents all night.*

STATEMENTS AND QUESTIONS

STATEMENTS	*YES/NO* QUESTIONS & SHORT ANSWERS	*WH-* QUESTIONS
The *Titanic* **had been crossing** the Atlantic.	**A: Had** the ship **been crossing** in the winter? **B:** No, it **hadn't**.	How long **had** it **been traveling**?
The captain **hadn't been listening** to the warnings.	**A: Had** he **been traveling** too fast? **B:** Yes, he **had**.	Why **hadn't** the captain **been listening** to the warnings?
Lewis and Clark **had been traveling** for several years.	**A: Had** American Indians **been traveling** with Lewis and Clark? **B:** Yes, they **had**.	Which American Indians **had been traveling** with them?

EXERCISE 11 Fill in the blanks with the verb forms you hear. 4.4

Millvina Dean was only a nine-month-old baby when her family took her on the *Titanic*. Mr. and Mrs. Dean _____ (1.) in third class with Millvina and her two-year-old brother. Millvina's father _____ (2.) a business in London for several years when an American cousin invited him to help run his business in the U.S. But, unfortunately, that wasn't going to happen. Millvina, her mother, and brother were rescued, but Mr. Dean _____ (3.). A week after arriving in the United States, Millvina, her mother, and brother returned to England. For many years, Millvina _____ (4.) about her experience because, of course, she couldn't remember anything. What she knew she _____ (5.) from her mother. Millvina _____ (6.) a quiet life for many years until 1985, when the *Titanic* was found. For the next 20 years she was invited to *Titanic*-related events in the United States, England, and other countries. When she died in 2009 at the age of 97, she had been the oldest and last survivor.

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4.9 The Past Perfect Continuous—Use

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
The *Titanic* **had been traveling** for four days when it **hit** an iceberg. Millvina **had been living** a quiet life **for many years** when the *Titanic* was found.	The past perfect continuous is used with a continuous action that was completed before another past action. The duration of the continuous action is expressed with *for* + an amount of time.
Lewis **had known** Clark for almost 10 years by the time the expedition began. By the time the rescue ship arrived, most of the passengers of the *Titanic* **had** already **died**.	We use the past perfect, not the past perfect continuous, with: • nonaction verbs (See Appendix B for a list of nonaction verbs.) • actions of little or no duration

EXERCISE 12 Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past perfect continuous of the verbs given. Use the passive where indicated.

1. When she _____ (die) , Millvina Dean _____ (live) in a nursing home for several years.
2. Lewis _____ (work) for President Jefferson for two years when the president _____ (choose) him for the expedition.
3. Lewis and Clark _____ (travel) for three months by the time they _____ (meet) American Indians.
4. When Lewis and Clark finally _____ (see) the Pacific Ocean, they _____ (cross) the continent for one and a half years.
5. By the time Jack Thayer _____ (write) his story, he _____ (think) about this tragedy for 30 years.
6. By the time Jack Thayer _____ (passive: rescue), he _____ (hold on) to a lifeboat all night.
7. By the time the *Titanic* _____ (passive: find), it _____ (rest) on the ocean floor for over 70 years.
8. When the space shuttle *Columbia* _____ (explode), it _____ (travel) for 16 days.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

EXERCISE 13 The following is a student's account of leaving her country and immigrating to the United States. Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the past perfect continuous of the verbs given.

1. When I _____ (come) came to the U.S., I _____ (study) had been studying English for three years.
2. I _____ (wait) for two years when I _____ (get) a chance to leave my country.
3. I _____ (live) in the same house all my life when I _____ (leave) my city.
4. I _____ (feel) very sad when I left my job because I _____ (work) with the same people for 10 years.
5. I _____ (study) to be a nurse for six months when a war _____ (break out) in my country.
6. When I _____ (leave) my country, the war _____ (go on) for three years.
7. My family _____ (wait) in Germany for three months before we _____ (get) permission to come to the U.S.
8. By the time I _____ (get) to the U.S., I _____ (travel) for four days.

ABOUT YOU Complete the following sentences. Give information about your life. Use the past perfect progressive.

By the time I finished high school, I had been studying English for 10 years.

1. By the time I _____ (simple past), I _____ (past perfect continuous) for _____ years/months.
2. I _____ (past perfect continuous) for _____ years/months by the time I _____ (simple past).
3. My family _____ (past perfect continuous) for _____ years/months when I _____ (simple past).
4. When I _____ (simple past), my family _____ (past perfect continuous) for _____ years/months.

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