

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.



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 _____
- 3 rang / woken up / you / I / when / already / ?
Had _____
- 4 abroad / never / year / had / last / been / I
Before _____
- 5 then / a snake / ever / you / before / seen / ?
Had _____



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 / ever make) lasagne before today?
- 3 School _____ (already / start) when I _____ (arrive).
- 4 By the time Sara _____ (leave) England, she _____ (learn) to speak English very well.
- 5 I _____ (never / feel) real terror until I _____ (see) that film!
- 6 _____ (everyone / already / go) to bed by the time the fire _____ (start)?



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

Emma ¹ moved (move) to a new school last year. By the time she ² _____ (be) there a couple of weeks, she ³ _____ (already / settle) down very well. And now things are going even better! Last week she ⁴ _____ (become) the captain of the school football team.

She ⁵ _____ (be) very happy about this because she ⁶ _____ (always / want) to be the team captain. And yesterday she ⁷ _____ (receive) her exam results. More good news! She ⁸ _____ (never / get) all top marks before!



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

- 1 Before this year, I _____
- 2 We didn't win the match because we _____
- 3 I signed up for karate lessons because _____
- 4 By the time Ella finished university, _____
- 5 Max was going through a hard time because _____