

Past Perfect

A Surprise at the Airport

Last summer, Julia planned a trip to Mexico with her best friend. They **arrived** at the airport very early because they **didn't want** to miss their flight. However, when they **reached** the check-in desk, Julia realized she **had forgotten** her passport at home.

Luckily, her brother **was** already on his way to the airport because Julia **had called** him before she **left** home. He **arrived** just in time with the passport. By the time Julia **checked in**, the airline **had already closed** one of the counters, but she **was** still able to board the plane.

When Julia finally **sat** on the airplane, she **felt** relieved. She was happy because her brother **had saved** her vacation.

Grammar: Past Perfect

We use the **Past Perfect** to talk about an action that happened **before another action in the past**. It shows which action happened **first**.

Structure: Subject + had + past participle + complement

Examples:

- I **had finished** my homework before dinner.
- She **had left** when I arrived.
- They **had never visited** Bogotá before last year.

Timeline

First Action: Past Perfect → Second Action: Past Simple

Example: I **had eaten** breakfast before I **went** to school.

- **First:** I ate breakfast.
- **Second:** I went to school.

Affirmative

Subject + had + past participle: I **had finished**

Negative

Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle: She **hadn't finished** her project.

Questions

Had + subject + past participle...?: **Had** you **finished** your homework?

Exercise 1: Match:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. She had finished her homework. | a. before the guests arrived. |
| 2. We had left home. | b. before the bus came. |
| 3. They had already eaten. | c. before dinner started. |
| 4. I had cleaned my room. | d. before his parents came home. |
| 5. He had gone to bed. | e. before the teacher checked it. |

Exercise 2: complete with past perfect

- She _____ (finish) her homework before dinner.
- We _____ (leave) before the rain started.
- They _____ already _____ (eat) lunch.
- I _____ (never/see) snow before that trip.
- My father _____ (buy) the tickets before we arrived.

Exercise 3: Choose the correct answer.

1. By the time we arrived, the movie: started / had started / starts
2. She ____ dinner before her friends came: had cooked / cooks / cooked
3. They ____ the museum before it closed: visited / have visited / had visited
4. I ____ my homework before I watched TV: had finished / finish / have finished
5. We ____ our bags before leaving home: packed / had packed / pack

Exercise 4: organize the sentences

- had / before / she / left / arrived / I
- movie / had / started / the / already
- homework / finished / had / we / our
- had / they / dinner / eaten / before / arrived / we
- never / had / visited / he / Paris

Exercise 5: Complete

Yesterday, Tom was late for school. He _____ (wake up) late because he _____ (forget) to set his alarm. He _____ (not prepare) his backpack the night before. By the time he left the house, the school bus _____ already _____ (leave). The first class _____ already _____ (start).