

PRESENT PERFECT vs. PAST PERFECT

My Travel Experiences

Last year, I went to Cartagena for the first time. I was very excited because I **had never visited** the city before. Before I arrived, I **had already booked** a hotel near the beach.

I **have visited** many beautiful places in Colombia, but Cartagena is one of my favorites. I **have taken** many photos there, and I **have tried** delicious seafood. I **have also met** interesting people.

When I arrived at the hotel, I realized that I **had forgotten** my sunglasses at home. Luckily, I **have learned** to check my bags carefully before traveling!

Grammar Explanation

Present Perfect	Past Perfect
have / has + past participle	had + past participle
I have visited Cartagena.	I had visited Cartagena before.
She has tried Colombian food.	She had tried it before the trip.
We have seen that movie.	We had seen that movie before.

1. Present Perfect – have / has + past participle

We use the Present Perfect to talk about:

- Life experiences: I have visited Bogotá. / She has never traveled by plane.
- Actions that happened in the past but are connected to the present: I have lost my keys. / He has finished his homework.

Common words: ever, never, already, yet, just, recently, so far.

Examples: Have you ever eaten sushi? / I have never been to Japan. / She has just arrived.

2. Past Perfect – had + past participle

We use the Past Perfect to talk about an action that happened before another action in the past.

Past Perfect → earlier action

Past Simple → later action

I had eaten breakfast before I went to work.

She had already left when I arrived.

They had never traveled by plane before they went to Spain.

Common words: before, after, already, just, never, when, by the time.

Exercise 1 – Choose the correct option

1. I _____ never eaten sushi. a) have b) had
2. She _____ already left when I called her. a) has b) had
3. We _____ visited Bogotá three times. a) have b) had
4. He _____ finished his homework before he watched TV. a) has b) had
5. They _____ never traveled by plane before their trip to Spain. a) have b) had
6. I _____ just finished my lunch. a) have b) had

Exercise 2 – Complete with the Present Perfect

Use have / has + past participle.

1. Maria _____ (visit) Medellín twice.
2. I _____ (never / try) Indian food.
3. They _____ (already / finish) their project.
4. He _____ (see) that movie three times.
5. We _____ (not / travel) abroad.

Exercise 3 – Complete with the Past Perfect

Use had + past participle.

1. When I arrived, the movie _____ already _____ (start).
2. She was tired because she _____ (not / sleep) well.
3. They _____ (eat) dinner before they went to the cinema.
4. When we got to the airport, the plane _____ already _____ (leave).
5. He was nervous because he _____ never _____ (fly) before.

Exercise 4 – Present Perfect or Past Perfect?

1. I _____ (visit) Peru three times.
2. Before I went to Peru, I _____ never _____ (travel) outside Colombia.
3. She _____ (just / finish) her homework.
4. When I called Tom, he _____ already _____ (go) to bed.
5. We _____ (see) this movie before.
6. Before they moved to Canada, they _____ never _____ (live) abroad.