



PAST PERFECT

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1. What is the Past Perfect?

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

Look at this example:

When I arrived at the station, the train **had already left**.

There are two past actions:

1. The train left.
2. I arrived at the station. 👉

The train left **first**.

had left = earlier past

arrived = later past

The basic form

had + past participle

Positive	Negative
I had worked	I hadn't worked
She had gone	She hadn't gone
They had finished	They hadn't finished

The form is the same for **all subjects**.

- I had eaten. / She had eaten. / We had eaten. / They had eaten.

2. Look at the timeline

Earlier past → Later past

The train left → I arrived

The train had left before I arrived.

Another example:

She **had finished** dinner before her friends arrived.

First: She finished dinner.

Second: Her friends arrived.

3. Complete the sentences

Use the **Past Perfect** form of the verb in brackets.

1. When I arrived, the meeting _____ already _____. (start)
2. She was tired because she _____ not _____ well. (sleep)
3. They couldn't get into the house because they _____ the key. (lose)
4. When we got to the cinema, the film _____ already _____. (begin)
5. He was hungry because he _____ not _____ breakfast. (eat)
6. I couldn't pay because I _____ my wallet at home. (leave)
7. When Sarah called me, I _____ already _____ to bed. (go)
8. The teacher was angry because the students _____ not _____ their homework. (do)

4. Past Perfect or Past Simple?

Complete the sentences with the correct form.

1. When I arrived, John _____ (leave).
2. John _____ (leave) the office at 5:00.
3. She was hungry because she _____ (not eat) breakfast.
4. She _____ (eat) breakfast at 7:00.
5. When we got home, our children _____ already _____ (go) to bed.
6. Our children _____ (go) to bed at 9:00.

REAL ENGLISH BOX

A very useful pattern is:

I had already... when...

I had already eaten when my friend called.

I hadn't... when...

I hadn't finished my work when the meeting started.

Had you... before...?

Had you seen the film before you read the book?

Teacher's Key

Activity 3

1. had already started
2. hadn't slept
3. had lost
4. had already begun
5. hadn't eaten
6. had left
7. had already gone
8. hadn't done

Activity 4

1. had left
2. left
3. hadn't eaten
4. ate
5. had already gone
6. went