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1. What happened first?

Read each situation.

Situation A When Anna arrived at the airport, her flight had already left. What happened first? a) Anna arrived. b) The flight left.	Situation C When we arrived at the hotel, the receptionist had prepared our room. What happened first? a) The receptionist prepared the room. b) We arrived.
Situation B When I got home, my family had already eaten dinner. What happened first? a) I got home. b) My family ate dinner.	Situation D When James went to the shop, it had already closed. What happened first? a) James went to the shop. b) The shop closed.

2. Complete the conversations

Use the correct form of the verb.

Conversation 1 – The Airport

A: Why did you miss your flight?

B: When I got to the airport, the plane _____ already _____. (leave)

A: Oh no! Why were you late?

B: I _____ (forget) the time.

Conversation 2 – Dinner

A: Why didn't you eat dinner with us?

B: I wasn't hungry. I _____ already _____. (eat)

A: What did you have?

B: I _____ (have) a sandwich at work.

Conversation 3 – The Movie

A: Did you enjoy the movie?

B: Yes, but I _____ already _____ it before. (see)

A: Really? When?

B: I _____ (see) it last year.

3. Tell your partner

Choose three questions.

1. Have you ever arrived somewhere too late?
2. Have you ever missed a bus, train or flight?
3. Have you ever forgotten something important?
4. Have you ever lost your keys?
5. Have you ever arrived at a restaurant after your friends had already ordered?
6. Have you ever watched a movie twice?
7. Have you ever gone somewhere and discovered that it had already closed?

Tell your partner what happened.

Try to use:

- When I arrived...
- ...had already...
- I had forgotten...
- I hadn't realised...

Example:

"I went to a shop last Sunday, but it had already closed. I hadn't checked the opening hours."

4. Make the sentence

Use the information to make one sentence with the Past Perfect.

Example

train left / I arrived

The train had left before I arrived.

A - eat dinner / friends arrive

B - finish homework / teacher check it

C - book a hotel / travel to the city

D - lose phone / try to call friend

E - rain / we leave the house

F - close the shop / she arrive

REAL ENGLISH BOX

The Past Perfect is especially useful when telling a story.

Instead of saying:

"I arrived at the airport. The plane left before I arrived."

You can say:

"When I arrived at the airport, the plane had already left."

This makes the order of events clear and sounds natural when telling a story.

Teacher's Key

Activity 1

- A – b
- B – b
- C – a
- D – b

Activity 2

1. had already left / had forgotten
2. had already eaten / had
3. had already seen / saw

Activity 4 – Possible answers

- A. The friends had eaten dinner before I arrived.
 - B. I had finished my homework before the teacher checked it.
 - C. We had booked a hotel before we travelled to the city.
 - D. I had lost my phone before I tried to call my friend.
 - E. It had rained before we left the house.
 - F. The shop had closed before she arrived.
- Other grammatically correct answers are possible.