**THE PAST PERFECT TENSE**

**FORM**

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| **HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE** |

Examples:

* You **had studied** English before you moved to New York.
* **Had** you **studied** English before you moved to New York?
* You **had** not **studied** English before you moved to New York.



**Use the Past Perfect Tense when you are already talking about the past and want to talk about an earlier past action.**

**The form of the Past Perfect Tense is the same for all persons (had+past participle)**

**HAD is sometimes contracted to: ‘d**

**Examples:**

* I **had** never **seen** such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.
* I did not have any money because I **had lost** my wallet.
* Tony knew Istanbul so well because he **had visited** the city several times.
* **Had** Susan ever **studied** Thai before she moved to Thailand?
* She only understood the movie because she **had read** the book.
* Kristine **had** never **been** to an opera before last night.
* We were not able to get a hotel room because we **had not booked** in advance.
* A: **Had** you ever **visited** the U.S. before your trip in 2006?
B: Yes, I **had been** to the U.S. once before.

**ADVERB PLACEMENT**

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.. You place the **adverb between** HAD and the Past Participle.

Examples:

You had **previously** studied English before you moved to New York.

Had you **previously** studied English before you moved to New York?

**EXERCISES**

**I. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets, using the Past Perfect Tense:**

1. When I arrived at the cinema, the film \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (already/start).

2. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (live) in China for 10 years when she decided to move to Thailand.

3. After they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (eat) the shellfish, they began to feel sick.

4. If you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (listen) to me, you would have gotten the job.

5. Julie didn't arrive until I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (leave).

6. When we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (already/finish) dinner, we went out.

7. The garden was dead because it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) dry all summer.

8. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) her before somewhere.

9. We were late for the plane because we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (forgot) our passports.

10. She told me that she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (study) a lot before the final test.

11. The grass was yellow because it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / rain) all summer.

12. The lights went off because we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / pay) the electricity bill.

13. The children \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / do) their homework, so they were in trouble.

14. They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / eat) so we went to a restaurant.

15. We couldn't go into the concert because we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / bring) our tickets.

16. She said that she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / visit) the UK before.

17. Julie and Anne \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / meet) before the party.

18. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / have) breakfast when he arrived.

19. He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / use) Instagram before, so I showed him how to use it.

20. You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not / study) for the test, so you were very nervous.

**II. Complete the sentences. Use *already, ever or never* and the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.**

1. It was the first time she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the Olympics. (compete)

2. She wanted an Olympic medal because she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ one before. (win)

3. She had done very badly in her last race. It was the worst race she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . (run)

4. Her trainer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her to rest, and he told her again that she was not fit enough. (advise)

5. A month later, she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, so she began training for the next competition. (recover)

6. She began writing a book about her career. She was quite nervous because she \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (write) a book before.

**III. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets, using the Past Simple or the Past Perfect Simple.**

**Example:**

**When I got (get) home, I realized (realize) I had left (leave) my sunglasses in the office.**

1. When I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the station, the train \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (already, leave).

2. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (thank) the couple for everything they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (do) to help save our daughter.

3. As soon as I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (hear) the voice, I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (realize) I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (meet) the person before.

4. I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the shop to buy the shirt I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the day before. (see).

5. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (return) the book when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (finish) reading it.

6. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not go) to bed until the film \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (finish).

7. The test \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) difficult because I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not study).

8. When Mr. Smith \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (retire), he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (run) company for over forty years.

9. When I last \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (speak) to her, she still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not finish) her assignment.

10. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (apologize) for the inconvenience we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (cause).

11. Our exam results \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) much better than we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (expect).

12. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the cinema as soon as we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner.

**IV. Complete the story with the correct forms of the verbs in the simple past or past perfect.**

I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (be) on vacation and I was traveling by train to Chicago. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not be) on the train long when I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (realize) my wallet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not be) in my jacket. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have) it when I paid for the ticket and I was sure that I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (put) it into my jacket pocket. Then I remembered something strange \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (happen) at the train station. Before I got on the train a man \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (push) me. Perhaps he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (steal) my wallet.

**ANSWER KEY**

**I. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets, using the Past Perfect Tense:**

1. When I arrived at the cinema, the film **HAD ALREADY STARTED** (already/start).

2. She **HAD LIVED** (live) in China for 10 years when she decided to move to Thailand.

3. After they **HAD EATEN** (eat) the shellfish, they began to feel sick.

4. If you **HAD LISTENED** (listen) to me, you would have gotten the job.

5. Julie didn't arrive until I **HAD LEFT** (leave).

6. When we **HAD ALREADY FINISHED** (already/finish) dinner, we went out.

7. The garden was dead because it **HAD BEEN** (be) dry all summer.

8. He **HAD MET** (meet) her before somewhere.

9. We were late for the plane because we **HAD FORGOTTEN** (forgot) our passports.

10. She told me that she **HAD STUDIED** (study) a lot before the final test.

11. The grass was yellow because it **HADN’T RAINED** (not / rain) all summer.

12. The lights went off because we **HADN’T PAID** (not / pay) the electricity bill.

13. The children **HADN’T DONE** (not / do) their homework, so they were in trouble.

14. They **HADN’T EATEN** (not / eat) so we went to a restaurant.

15. We couldn't go into the concert because we **HADN’T BROUGHT** (not / bring) our tickets.

16. She said that she **HADN’T VISITED** (not / visit) the UK before.

17. Julie and Anne **HADN’T MET** (not / meet) before the party.

18. I **HADN’T HAD** (not / have) breakfast when he arrived.

19. He **HADN’T USED** (not / use) Instagram before, so I showed him how to use it.

20. You **HADN’T STUDIED** (not / study) for the test, so you were very nervous.

**II. Complete the sentences. Use *already, ever or never* and the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.**

1. It was the first time she **HAD EVER COMPETED** in the Olympics. (compete)

2. She wanted an Olympic medal because she **HAD NEVER WON** one before. (win)

3. She had done very badly in her last race. It was the worst race she **HAD EVER RUN** (run)

4. Her trainer **HAD ALREADY ADVISED** her to rest, and he told her again that she was not fit enough. (advise)

5. A month later, she **HAD ALREADY RECOVERED,** so she began training for the next competition.

 (recover)

6. She began writing a book about her career. She was quite nervous because she **HAD NEVER WRITTEN** (write) a book before.

**III. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets, using the Past Simple or the Past Perfect Simple.**

**Example:**

**When I got (get) home, I realized (realize) I had left (leave) my sunglasses in the office.**

1. When I **ARRIVED** (arrive) at the station, the train **HAD ALREADY LEFT** (already, leave).

2. We **THANKED** (thank) the couple for everything they **HAD DONE** (do) to help save our daughter.

3. As soon as I **HEARD** (hear) the voice, I **REALIZED** (realize) I **HAD MET** (meet) the person before.

4. I **WENT** (go) to the shop to buy the shirt I **HAD SEEN** the day before. (see)

5. I **RETURNED** (return) the book when I **HAD FINISHED** (finish) reading it.

6. I **DIDN’T GO** (not go) to bed until the film **HAD FINISHED** (finish).

7. The test **WAS** (be) difficult because I **HADN’T STUDIED** (not study).

8. When Mr. Smith **RETIRED** (retire), he **HAD RUN** (run) company for over forty years.

9. When I last **SPOKE** (speak) to her, she still **HADN’T FINISHED** (not finish) her assignment.

10. We **APOLOGIZED** (apologize) for the inconvenience we **HAD CAUSED** (cause).

11. Our exam results **WERE** (be) much better than we **HAD EXPECTED** (expect).

12. We **WENT** (go) to the cinema as soon as we **HAD HAD** (have) dinner.

**IV. Complete the story with the correct forms of the verbs in the simple past or past perfect.**

I **WAS** (be) on vacation and I was traveling by train to Chicago. I **HADN’T BEEN** (not be) on the train long when I **REALIZED** (realize) my wallet **WASN’T** (not be) in my jacket. I **HAD** (have) it when I paid for the ticket and I was sure that I **HAD PUT** (put) it into my jacket pocket. Then I remembered something strange **HAD HAPPENED** (happen) at the train station. Before I got on the train a man **HAD PUSHED** (push) me. Perhaps he **STOLE** (steal) my wallet

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