

English Verbs: Past Perfect Simple

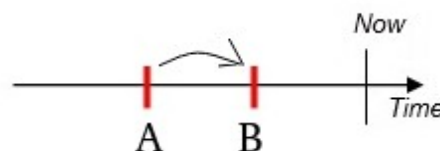
["had" + past participle]

Examples:

- Affirmation: He **had studied** English before he moved to New York.
- Question: **Had** he **studied** English before he moved to New York?
- Negative: He **had not studied** English before he moved to New York.

1. Event before another event in the past

The Past Perfect (simple) expresses the idea of a sequence of events in the past. We usually use words such as 'because' or 'before' to connect the events.



Rules:

1. Format: 'had' + past participle;
2. Two connected events in the past;
3. "Past Perfect" for first event, "Past Simple" for second event.
4. Contractions: Negative: **hadn't**
Positive: **I'd, he'd, she'd, we'd, they'd, you'd**

Examples:

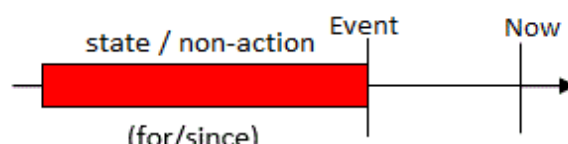
- I **had** never **seen** such a beautiful beach before I went to Brazil.
- I didn't have any money because I **had lost** my wallet.
- Tony knew Istanbul so well because he **had visited** the city many times.
- **Had** Susan **studied** German before she moved to Germany?
- She understood the film only because she **had read** the book.
- Christine **had** never **seen** an opera before last night.
- We couldn't get a hotel room because we **hadn't booked** in advance.
- A: **Had** you ever **visited** the USA before your trip in 2006?
B: Yes, I'd **visited** once before.

2. Period of time before a specific event/time in the past

(for non-action verbs)

For non-action (or *state*) verbs, we use the Past Perfect tense to show that something started in the past and continued until another time in the past.

We often use 'for' or 'since' in these cases.



Examples:

- When Alex finished his studies, he **had been** in London for eight years.
- They sold the house where they **had lived** since 1960.
- We **had had** that car for ten years before we sold it.

(For *action* verbs, we use the *Past Perfect Continuous* tense)

ADVERB POSITION

Adverbs (ex. always, only, never, ever, already, almost, still, just) go in the middle:

Examples:

- He **had never studied** English before he moved to New York.
- He **had only visited** Japan before last year.
- We **had always painted** our house white until Roger suggested yellow.

Exercise 1. Complete the sentences using the given verbs.

- 1) When I arrived at the cinema, the film _____ (start).
- 2) We arrived late at the airport because we _____ (forget) our passports.
- 3) The grass was brown because it _____ (not / rain) all summer.
- 4) The lights went off because we _____ (not / pay) the electricity bill.
- 5) We couldn't go into the concert because we _____ (not / bring) our tickets.
- 6) I _____ (not / have) breakfast when John arrived.
- 7) He _____ (not / use) e-mail before, so I showed him how to use it.
- 8) I _____ (not / study) for the test, so I was very nervous last week.
- 9) She _____ (live) in China before she went to Thailand.
- 10) If you _____ (listen) to me, you would have gotten the job.
- 11) Julie arrived after I _____ (leave), so we didn't meet.
- 12) After we _____ (finish) dinner, we went to the park.
- 13) She said that she _____ (not / visit) the UK before.
- 14) Julie and Anne _____ (not / meet) each other before the party.

Exercise 2. Create suitable sentences for the given situations.

Example: yesterday / I eat a big lunch / I not eat breakfast
 Yesterday, I **ate** a big lunch because I **hadn't eaten** breakfast.

1. on Friday / Peter miss his flight / he leave his passport at home

2. last Wednesday / I be late for work / I oversleep

3. last year / she not travel to Europe / she break her leg

4. yesterday / I can not do my homework / I not pay attention in class

5. before he go to Paris / he study French

More exercises:

<https://www.ego4u.com/en/cram-up/grammar/past-perfect-simple/exercises>

https://www.englisch-hilfen.de/en/exercises/tenses/past_perfect_simple_past.htm

<https://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs11.htm>

Perfect Simple structures

1) State (period of time)

Past: 1 month ago, you **had** lived in London for 5 years.
Present: (Today) you **have** lived in London for over 5 years.
Future: Next year, you **will have** lived in London for 6 years.

2) Action/Event

Past: Before I moved, I **had** visited London 3 times.
Present: (Today) I **have** visited London 5 times.
Future: After my birthday, I **will have** visited London 8 times.