

Present Perfect vs. Past Perfect

Present Perfect Tense



The Present Perfect Tense describes actions that happened at an unspecified time before now, actions that started in the past and continue, or past experiences.

I have lived in this city for five years.



Time Words

Ever	Never	Just
Already	Yet	Recently



Structure: Subject + has/have + past participle

Example: She has finished her homework.



Structure: Subject + has/have + not + past participle

Example: They have not seen this movie.



Structure: Has/Have + subject + past participle?

Example: Have you visited London?

Usage and Examples

Usage	Example
Unspecified Past Actions	She has visited Paris.
Past Actions with Present Result	I have lost my keys.
Actions Continuing Until Now	They have lived here for five years.
Life Experiences	He has never tried sushi.

Present Perfect (Have/Has + Past Participle)

We use the **present perfect** to talk about actions that happened at an **unspecified time in the past** or started in the past and **continue into the present**.

Formula: Subject + **have/has** + past participle

Examples:

- I **have visited** Spain. (At some time in my life, but we don't say exactly when.)
- She **has lived** here for five years. (Started in the past and continues now.)
- They **have just finished** their homework. (Recently completed action.)

Some Common Keywords: Just, already, yet, ever, never, for, since,

- I **have just finished** my work
- She **still hasn't** called me back
- We **have raised** 50K **so far**.
- He **hasn't finished** his homework **yet**
- She **has already** left.

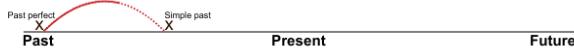
Past Perfect Tense



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The Past Perfect Tense describes an action that happened before another past action or a specific time in the past.

I had eaten breakfast before they arrived.



Time Words

Before	By the time	Already
After	Never	Just

Formula



Structure Subject + had + past participle

Example She had left before I woke up.



Structure Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle

Example They had not finished their work.



Structure Had + subject + past participle?

Example Had you seen that movie before?

Usage and Examples

Usage

Completed action before another past action

She had finished her homework before dinner.

Completed action before a specific past time

By 10 AM, they had left the house.

Reported speech

He said he had never seen that movie before.

Unreal past conditions (third conditional)

If you had studied, you would have passed.

Example

Past Perfect (Had + Past Participle)

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

Formula: Subject + **had** + past participle

Examples:

- Before she arrived, I **had finished** my homework.
- They **had already eaten** when we got to the restaurant.
- He **had never seen** snow before last year.

Some Common Keywords: **Before, after, already, just, never, by the time**

- Had you **met** him **yet** before the party?
- It was the best pizza I **had ever eaten**.
- I **had never seen** such a beautiful sunset before that day.
- By that point, they **had received** three complaints **so far**.

TOP 50 Irregular verbs

INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE	INFINITIVE	PAST SIMPLE	PAST PARTICIPLE
be	was/were	been	leave	left	left
bet	bet	bet	let	let	let
break	broke	broken	lie	lay	lain
bring	brought	brought	lose	lost	lost
buy	bought	bought	make	made	made
come	came	come	mean	meant	meant
cut	cut	cut	meet	met	met
deal	dealt	dealt	pay	paid	paid
do	did	done	put	put	put
drink	drank	drunk	quit	quit	quit
eat	ate	eaten	read	read	read
feel	felt	felt	run	ran	run
fight	fought	fought	say	said	said
find	found	found	see	saw	seen
forget	forgot	forgotten	set	set	set
get	got	gotten	show	Showed	shown
give	gave	given	shut	shut	shut
go	went	gone	sit	sat	sat
have	had	had	sleep	slept	slept
hear	heard	heard	stand	stood	stood
hit	hit	hit	take	took	taken
hold	held	held	tell	told	told
hurt	hurt	hurt	think	thought	thought
keep	kept	kept	understand	understood	understood
know	knew	known	upset	upset	upset

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Exercise: Fill in the blanks

A: Present Perfect (have/has + past participle)

1. She _____ (never/be) to Japan.
2. I _____ (already/finish) my homework.
3. They _____ (not/see) this movie before.
4. We _____ (live) here for 10 years.
5. He _____ (just/eat) lunch.

B: Past Perfect (had + past participle)

1. When I arrived, they _____ (already/start) the meeting.
2. She _____ (never/try) sushi before last night.

3. He _____ (finish) his work before his boss checked it.
4. We _____ (leave) the house before the storm began.
5. By the time I got to the station, the train _____ (depart).

C: Use the present perfect (have/has + past participle) or past perfect (had + past participle) form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. She has written _____ (write) three books so far.
2. He was tired because he had run _____ (run) a marathon earlier that day.
3. When I got home, I realized I had forgotten _____ (forget) my keys at the office.
4. He has broken _____ (break) his leg, so he can't play football.
5. Before last year, I hadn't been _____ (not be) to Paris.