

# Grammar Practice Exercises

## Past Perfect (I had done)

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### Practice Set 1

January 6, 2026

## Instructions

This practice set focuses on the **Past Perfect** tense:

- Form: **had + past participle** (had done, had seen, had gone, etc.)
- Use: To talk about something that happened **before** another past action or time
- Key point: The past perfect shows which action happened **first** in the past

## 1 Exercise 1: Complete with Past Perfect

*Complete the sentences using the past perfect form of the verb in parentheses.*

1. When I arrived at the party, Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (already / leave).
2. She didn't want to go to the cinema because she \_\_\_\_\_ (already / see) the film.
3. By the time I got to the station, the train \_\_\_\_\_ (already / go).
4. I was very tired because I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / sleep) well the night before.
5. They \_\_\_\_\_ (never / meet) before the conference.
6. When we arrived at the restaurant, they \_\_\_\_\_ (give) our table to someone else.
7. I didn't recognize her because she \_\_\_\_\_ (change) so much.
8. He couldn't pay for the meal because he \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) his wallet at home.
9. By 10 PM, I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) all my homework.
10. She told me she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) to Paris three times before.
11. The streets were wet because it \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) all morning.

12. I \_\_\_\_\_ (just / get) home when the phone rang.
13. They \_\_\_\_\_ (know) each other for years before they started dating.
14. When I checked my pocket, I realized I \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) my keys.
15. The movie \_\_\_\_\_ (already / start) when we entered the cinema.

## 2 Exercise 2: Past Simple or Past Perfect?

Complete the sentences with the correct form: past simple or past perfect.

1. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive), everybody \_\_\_\_\_ (already / start) eating.
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very hungry because she \_\_\_\_\_ (not / eat) anything all day.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / recognize) him because he \_\_\_\_\_ (grow) a beard.
4. After he \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) his work, he \_\_\_\_\_ (go) home.
5. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (get) to the airport, we realized we \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) our passports.
6. She \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me she \_\_\_\_\_ (never / try) sushi before.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) sick because I \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) too much at dinner.
8. By the time the ambulance \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive), the man \_\_\_\_\_ (already / die).
9. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be) late for work because he \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) his bus.
10. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (turn on) the TV, the game \_\_\_\_\_ (already / finish).
11. She \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) her exam because she \_\_\_\_\_ (study) very hard.
12. After they \_\_\_\_\_ (have) dinner, they \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a movie.

## 3 Exercise 3: Write Sentences Using Past Perfect

Combine the two sentences using the past perfect. The action in the first sentence happened first.

**Example:**

First: I finished my homework.

Then: I went out to play.

Answer: I went out to play after I had finished my homework.

1. First: She studied French for five years.  
Then: She moved to Paris.
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2. First: The rain stopped.  
Then: We went for a walk.
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3. First: He saved enough money.  
Then: He bought a car.
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4. First: They ate all the food.  
Then: More guests arrived.
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5. First: I read the book.  
Then: I watched the movie.
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6. First: The concert ended.  
Then: We left the venue.
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## 4 Exercise 4: Complete the Story

Complete this short story using the past simple or past perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

Last Saturday, I \_\_\_\_\_ (1. decide) to visit my old friend Mark. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (2. arrive) at his house, I \_\_\_\_\_ (3. discover) that he \_\_\_\_\_ (4. move) to a new apartment. A neighbor \_\_\_\_\_ (5. tell) me that Mark \_\_\_\_\_ (6. leave) two months earlier.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (7. be) disappointed because I \_\_\_\_\_ (8. not / see) him for over a year, and I \_\_\_\_\_ (9. really / want) to catch up. I \_\_\_\_\_ (10. try) to call him, but he \_\_\_\_\_ (11. change) his phone number too.

Later that evening, I \_\_\_\_\_ (12. check) my email and \_\_\_\_\_ (13. find) a message from Mark. He \_\_\_\_\_ (14. send) it two weeks before, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (15. not / notice) it. In the email, he \_\_\_\_\_ (16. explain) that he \_\_\_\_\_ (17. get) a new job in another city and \_\_\_\_\_ (18. have) to move quickly.

## 5 Exercise 5: Correct the Mistakes

Each sentence has one mistake with the past perfect or past simple. Find and correct it.

1. When I got home, I realized I had forgot my keys at work.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

2. She told me she has never been to Japan before.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

3. After he had ate dinner, he went to bed.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

4. I didn't knew that you had already left.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

5. They have finished all the work before the boss arrived.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

6. By the time I woke up, the sun had already rose.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

7. She was tired because she didn't slept well.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

8. When the police arrived, the thief had already escape.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

9. I had went to that restaurant many times before it closed.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

10. He told me he had see the movie twice.

*Correction:* \_\_\_\_\_

## 6 Exercise 6: Questions with Past Perfect

Complete the questions using the past perfect.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / ever / visit) London before your trip last year?
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (she / finish) her homework before the teacher arrived?
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (they / already / eat) when you got to the restaurant?
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (he / meet) her before the party?
5. Why \_\_\_\_\_ (you / not / tell) me about the problem earlier?
6. How long \_\_\_\_\_ (they / be) married before they had children?
7. What \_\_\_\_\_ (happen) before the police arrived?
8. Where \_\_\_\_\_ (she / work) before she joined our company?

## 7 Exercise 7: Translation Practice

Translate these sentences into English using the past perfect.

1. Quando cheguei ao aeroporto, o avião já tinha partido.  
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2. Ela estava cansada porque tinha trabalhado o dia todo.  
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3. Eu nunca tinha visto um filme tão bom antes.  
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4. Eles já tinham jantado quando nós chegamos.  
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5. Você já tinha estudado inglês antes de fazer o curso?  
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6. Ele não sabia que ela tinha se mudado.  
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7. Depois que ela tinha terminado o livro, ela assistiu ao filme.  
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8. A festa já tinha acabado quando eu cheguei.  
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## 8 Exercise 8: Mixed Practice - Fill the Gaps

Complete the dialogues using past simple or past perfect.

### Dialogue 1

**A:** Why were you so late to the meeting yesterday?

**B:** I \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) my alarm because I \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to charge my phone the night before.

**A:** That's unfortunate. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / miss) anything important?

**B:** Yes, by the time I \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive), they \_\_\_\_\_ (already / make) all the important decisions.

### Dialogue 2

**A:** How was your trip to Rome?

**B:** Amazing! I \_\_\_\_\_ (never / be) there before, so everything \_\_\_\_\_ (be) new to me.

**A:** \_\_\_\_\_ (you / visit) the Colosseum?

**B:** Of course! I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) pictures before, but seeing it in person \_\_\_\_\_ (be) incredible.

### Dialogue 3

**A:** I \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) you got a new job. Congratulations!

**B:** Thanks! I \_\_\_\_\_ (apply) for it months ago and \_\_\_\_\_ (almost / give up) hope.

**A:** How long \_\_\_\_\_ (you / work) at your previous company?

**B:** I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there for five years before I \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to look for something new.

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*End of Exercises*

*Check your answers with the answer key*