

Answer Key

Past Perfect (I had done)

Practice Set 1

January 6, 2026

1 Exercise 1: Complete with Past Perfect

1. When I arrived at the party, Tom **had already left**.
2. She didn't want to go to the cinema because she **had already seen** the film.
3. By the time I got to the station, the train **had already gone**.
4. I was very tired because I **hadn't slept / had not slept** well the night before.
5. They **had never met** before the conference.
6. When we arrived at the restaurant, they **had given** our table to someone else.
7. I didn't recognize her because she **had changed** so much.
8. He couldn't pay for the meal because he **had forgotten** his wallet at home.
9. By 10 PM, I **had finished** all my homework.
10. She told me she **had been** to Paris three times before.
11. The streets were wet because it **had rained / had been raining** all morning.
12. I **had just got / gotten** home when the phone rang.
13. They **had known** each other for years before they started dating.
14. When I checked my pocket, I realized I **had lost** my keys.
15. The movie **had already started** when we entered the cinema.

Rule Reminder:

- Past Perfect = **had** + **past participle**
- Use it when one past action happened **before** another past action
- Common time expressions: *already, just, never, before, by the time, when*

2 Exercise 2: Past Simple or Past Perfect?

1. When I **arrived**, everybody **had already started** eating.
2. She **was** very hungry because she **hadn't eaten** / **had not eaten** anything all day.
3. I **didn't recognize** him because he **had grown** a beard.
4. After he **had finished** his work, he **went** home.
5. When we **got** to the airport, we realized we **had forgotten** our passports.
6. She **told** me she **had never tried** sushi before.
7. I **felt** sick because I **had eaten** too much at dinner.
8. By the time the ambulance **arrived**, the man **had already died**.
9. He **was** late for work because he **had missed** his bus.
10. When I **turned on** the TV, the game **had already finished**.
11. She **passed** her exam because she **had studied** very hard.
12. After they **had had** dinner, they **watched** a movie.

Key Point:

- Use **Past Simple** for the main event in the story timeline
- Use **Past Perfect** for the action that happened **before** the main event
- After “after” + past perfect, use past simple for the next action

3 Exercise 3: Write Sentences Using Past Perfect

1. **She moved to Paris after she had studied French for five years.**
(Also acceptable: Before she moved to Paris, she had studied French for five years.)
2. **We went for a walk after the rain had stopped.**
(Also acceptable: After the rain had stopped, we went for a walk.)
3. **He bought a car after he had saved enough money.**
(Also acceptable: After he had saved enough money, he bought a car.)
4. **More guests arrived after they had eaten all the food.**
(Also acceptable: By the time more guests arrived, they had eaten all the food.)

5. **I watched the movie after I had read the book.**

(Also acceptable: Before I watched the movie, I had read the book.)

6. **We left the venue after the concert had ended.**

(Also acceptable: After the concert had ended, we left the venue.)

4 Exercise 4: Complete the Story

Last Saturday, I (1) **decided** to visit my old friend Mark. When I (2) **arrived** at his house, I (3) **discovered** that he (4) **had moved** to a new apartment. A neighbor (5) **told** me that Mark (6) **had left** two months earlier.

I (7) **was** disappointed because I (8) **hadn't seen** / **had not seen** him for over a year, and I (9) **had really wanted** / **really wanted** to catch up. I (10) **tried** to call him, but he (11) **had changed** his phone number too.

Later that evening, I (12) **checked** my email and (13) **found** a message from Mark. He (14) **had sent** it two weeks before, but I (15) **hadn't noticed** / **had not noticed** it. In the email, he (16) **explained** that he (17) **had got** / **gotten** a new job in another city and (18) **had had** to move quickly.

Note: The past perfect is used for events that happened before the main story timeline (Saturday). The past simple is used for the main events of the story.

5 Exercise 5: Correct the Mistakes

- ~~When I got home, I realized I had forgot my keys at work.~~
Correction: **When I got home, I realized I had forgotten my keys at work.**
Explanation: The past participle of “forget” is “forgotten”, not “forgot”.
- ~~She told me she has never been to Japan before.~~
Correction: **She told me she had never been to Japan before.**
Explanation: Use past perfect (had been), not present perfect (has been), in reported speech about the past.
- ~~After he had ate dinner, he went to bed.~~
Correction: **After he had eaten dinner, he went to bed.**
Explanation: The past participle of “eat” is “eaten”, not “ate” (which is past simple).
- ~~I didn't knew that you had already left.~~
Correction: **I didn't know that you had already left.**
Explanation: After “didn't”, use the base form “know”, not “knew”.
- ~~They have finished all the work before the boss arrived.~~
Correction: **They had finished all the work before the boss arrived.**
Explanation: Use past perfect (had finished) to show an action before another past action.
- ~~By the time I woke up, the sun had already rose.~~
Correction: **By the time I woke up, the sun had already risen.**
Explanation: The past participle of “rise” is “risen”, not “rose” (which is past simple).

7. ~~She was tired because she didn't slept well.~~
Correction: **She was tired because she hadn't slept well.**
Explanation: Use past perfect negative (hadn't slept) for the earlier action. Also, after "didn't", use base form.
8. ~~When the police arrived, the thief had already escape.~~
Correction: **When the police arrived, the thief had already escaped.**
Explanation: The past participle of "escape" is "escaped".
9. ~~I had went to that restaurant many times before it closed.~~
Correction: **I had been / gone to that restaurant many times before it closed.**
Explanation: The past participle of "go" is "gone" or "been" (for places), not "went".
10. ~~He told me he had see the movie twice.~~
Correction: **He told me he had seen the movie twice.**
Explanation: The past participle of "see" is "seen", not "see".

6 Exercise 6: Questions with Past Perfect

1. **Had you ever visited** London before your trip last year?
2. **Had she finished** her homework before the teacher arrived?
3. **Had they already eaten** when you got to the restaurant?
4. **Had he met** her before the party?
5. Why **hadn't you told** / **had you not told** me about the problem earlier?
6. How long **had they been** married before they had children?
7. What **had happened** before the police arrived?
8. Where **had she worked** before she joined our company?

Question Formation:

- Yes/No questions: **Had + subject + past participle...?**
- Wh- questions: **Wh-word + had + subject + past participle...?**
- Negative questions: **Hadn't + subject + past participle...?**

7 Exercise 7: Translation Practice

1. Quando cheguei ao aeroporto, o avião já tinha partido.
When I arrived at the airport, the plane had already left / departed.
2. Ela estava cansada porque tinha trabalhado o dia todo.
She was tired because she had worked all day.
3. Eu nunca tinha visto um filme tão bom antes.
I had never seen such a good movie / film before.
4. Eles já tinham jantado quando nós chegamos.
They had already had dinner when we arrived.
5. Você já tinha estudado inglês antes de fazer o curso?
Had you already studied English before taking the course?
6. Ele não sabia que ela tinha se mudado.
He didn't know (that) she had moved.
7. Depois que ela tinha terminado o livro, ela assistiu ao filme.
After she had finished the book, she watched the movie / film.
8. A festa já tinha acabado quando eu cheguei.
The party had already ended / finished when I arrived.

8 Exercise 8: Mixed Practice - Fill the Gaps

Dialogue 1

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

B: I **missed** my alarm because I **had forgotten** to charge my phone the night before.

A: That's unfortunate. **Did you miss** anything important?

B: Yes, by the time I **arrived**, they **had already made** all the important decisions.

Dialogue 2

A: How was your trip to Rome?

B: Amazing! I **had never been** there before, so everything **was** new to me.

A: **Did you visit** the Colosseum?

B: Of course! I **had seen** pictures before, but seeing it in person **was** incredible.

Dialogue 3

A: I **heard** you got a new job. Congratulations!

B: Thanks! I **had applied** for it months ago and **had almost given up** hope.

A: How long **had you worked** at your previous company?

B: I **had been** there for five years before I **decided** to look for something new.

Key Grammar Points Summary

Past Perfect Formation

- **Affirmative:** Subject + had + past participle
I had finished / She had gone / They had seen
- **Negative:** Subject + hadn't + past participle
I hadn't finished / She hadn't gone / They hadn't seen
- **Question:** Had + subject + past participle?
Had you finished? / Had she gone? / Had they seen?

When to Use Past Perfect

- To show that one action happened **before** another action in the past
- With time expressions like: *before, after, by the time, when, already, just, never, until*
- In reported speech when the original statement was in present perfect or past simple

Common Irregular Past Participles

- be → been, do → done, go → gone/been, see → seen
- eat → eaten, forget → forgotten, give → given, take → taken
- write → written, speak → spoken, break → broken, choose → chosen
- rise → risen, fall → fallen, know → known, grow → grown

*Great job completing these exercises!
Keep practicing to master the past perfect.*