

Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect is used to demonstrate an action that occurred before another action in the past. There are usually two completed actions in the sentence; one happens before the other.

Structures:

Subject + had + past participle form of the main verb + *before* + subject + simple past tense

Alex had completed the task before the teacher asked.

I had bought a phone before you came here.

***Before* + subject + simple past tense + subject + had + past participle form of the verb +**

Before I went to the office, I finished some business with her.

Before she went home, she had taken a test.

Subject + simple past tense + *after* + subject + had + past participle

Mark ate after I had bought him a bat.

I went to the office after I had finished some business with her.

***After* + subject + had + past participle + subject + simple past tense**

After I had bought a phone, she came to the shop.

After she had gone, I came in.

Note: ***When*** can be used in place of ***before*** or ***after*** in any of the above structures.

Past Perfect Progressive Tense

The **past perfect progressive tense** is an extension to the past perfect tense and its structures. Past perfect progressive is used to demonstrate an action which continued for a specific period of time but stopped before another action.

Structure:

Subject + had + been + verb+ *ing* + + for/since ++ before + subject + past simple tense

Alan had been playing cricket for 18 years before he retired.

Jack had been living in Sydney since 2010 before he moved to Melbourne.

Note: This tense can be replaced by the past perfect tense withdrawing ***for/since***.