



Time Expressions with the Past Perfect



Example: John does his homework.... The class starts.

By the time the class started, John had done his homework.

The class started **after** John had done his homework.

John had done his homework **before** the class started.

John had **already** done his homework when the class started.

The class started at 6pm. **By then** John had done his homework.

I had **just** finished my homework when the bell rang.

Use a range of past tenses including (e.g. the past simple, the past continuous, the past perfect) to write short stories:-

John ^{was} hiking (hike) through the forest when he saw (see) a unicorn. He called to (call to) his friends but by the time they arrived (arrive) the unicorn had disappeared (disappear). His friends said (say) he was crazy.

Rachel was cooking (cook lunch) when the doorbell rang. Rachel answered (answer) the door and the postman gave (give) her a parcel. As the postman drove (drive) away Rachel remembered (remember) the food in the kitchen. She ran (run) back inside but it was too late. The dog had (already / eat) it.

The hairdresser had just coloured (just / colour) my hair. She dried (dry) it while I was reading (read) a magazine. When I looked (look) in the mirror I was horrified. She had dyed (dye) my hair pink!

Rosa was walking (walk) through Guadalajara when it started (start to rain). As she was wearing (wear) her new suit, she decided to buy (decide to buy) an umbrella in Corte Ingles. It was (be) December so the queues were (be) huge. Before Rosa left (leave) the shop the rain stopped (stop).

As we were trekking (trek) through the jungle we saw (see) a tiger. Fortunately, it had already eaten (already / eat).

Now invent your own story with the past simple, the past continuous and past perfect tenses.

Past Perfect Tense

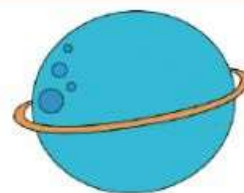
Fill in the blank spaces using past perfect tense.

1. The race ^{had} already finished _____ (already/finish) by the time the last person arrived.
2. Steve had a gold medal because he ^{had} won _____ (win) the marathon.
3. Maria fed her dog after she ^{had} walked _____ (walk) her dog in the evening.
4. Uncle Sam bought a new motorbike after he ^{had} ridden _____ (ride) it a few times.
5. By the time Alan and Jane had got to the restaurant, everyone ^{had} begun _____ (begin) eating.
6. Pablo ^{had} broken _____ (break) the vase while trying to put flowers in it.
7. There were a lot of people in the park because ^{it was a} _____ (was)a very sunny day.
8. We were burgled because my dad ^{had} not locked _____ (not lock) the bathroom window.
9. My car wasn't there because my husband ^{had taken} _____ (take) it without asking me.
10. Our grandmother ^{had died} _____ (die) because of old age.

PAST PERFECT v SIMPLE PAST

Read the sentences and choose the correct form of the verb.

1. The director ^{had already} _____ the crew before they planned the trip to the moon.
a. **had already chosen** b. already chose
2. Cindy Johnson _____ the craft while Melvin Mars communicated with groundforce.
a. had flown **b flew**
3. By the time they started the countdown, millions around the world _____ on their televisions.
a. **had tuned in** b tuned in
4. Cindy _____ to put her lucky charm in her pocket the night before.
a. **had remembered** b. remembered
5. When he looked out the window, Melvin _____ that his friends from university were watching outside.
a. hadn't seen **b. didn't see**
6. The TV announcer told his audience that the rocket _____ by team at MIT.
a. **had been designed** b. was designed
7. Unfortunately, by the time I _____ on the TV, the rocket had already taken off.
a. had turned on **b turned on**
8. They _____ far when they heard a strange noise.
a. **hadn't gone** b didn't go
9. "What's that noise?" _____ Cindy.
a. **had asked** b asked
10. "It's my smartphone." _____ Melvin. "Sorry."
a. had said **b. said**



PAST PERFECT TENSE

Complete the sentences using Past perfect tense.

- 1.- The fire ^{had already} reached (already/reach) the roof by the time the firemen arrived.
- 2.- Joe Smith went to prison because he ^{had} stolen (steal) a lot of money.
- 3.- Helen went to bed after she ^{had} watched (watch) her favourite TV programme.
- 4.- My father bought the new car after he ^{had} tried (try) it a few times.
- 5.- By the time Sonia got to the party, everyone ^{had} eaten (begin) dancing.
- 6.- Lorenzo ^{had} eaten (eat) all the ice cream before I opened the fridge.
- 7.- There was a lot of snow outside because it ^{had} snowed (snow) earlier in that day.
- 8.- Beatriz didn't pass the test because she ^{had} not (not study) at all.
- 9.- Look! Somebody ^{had} left (leave) the windows open.
- 10.- By the time the police arrived, the burglar ^{had} broken (break) into my neighbour's house.
- 11.- The girl felt guilty because she ^{had} drunk (drink) all the milk.
- 12.- Our flat was robbed because we ^{had} not (not lock) the front door.
- 13.- My father couldn't find the money because he ^{had} locked (hide) it in a drawer.
- 14.- Leonard didn't have money for the bus because he ^{had} hidden (forget) to ask his mother.
- 15.- My cousin ^{had} never visited (never/visit) a mine until his father took him one day.
- 16.- Her bicycle wasn't there because a friend ^{had} never (take) it without asking her.
- 17.- Daniel was arrested after he ^{had} taken (escape) from prison.
- 18.- When Kathy met Jonathan, he ^{had} escaped (join) the Navy.
- 19.- Before they arrived at the airport, they ^{had} joined (pay) the taxi driver.
- 20.- His dog ^{had} paid (die) two weeks ago. He was very sad.

