



# Past Perfect Simple Tense

Grammar > Advanced 7



# Exercise 1 – Learning

## How to Form the Past Perfect Simple Tense

Positive form: **had** + **main verb (past participle)**

- I **had washed** her car before it rained. (I'd **washed** her car before it rained.)
- You **had washed** her car before it rained. (You'd **washed** her car before it rained.)
- He/She/It **had washed** her car before it rained. (He/She/It'd **washed** her car before it rained.)
- We **had washed** her car before it rained. (We'd **washed** her car before it rained.)
- They **had washed** her car before it rained. (They'd **washed** her car before it rained.)

**Tip:** The short form for '**had**' is '-**d**'. Be careful not to confuse it with '**would**'. Would is followed by the infinitive - '**I'd go**', whereas had is followed by the past participle - '**I'd gone**'.



Negative form: **had + not + main verb (past participle)**

- I **had not traveled** to Germany before he invited me. (I **hadn't traveled** to Germany.)
- He didn't read that book because he **had not bought** it. (He **hadn't bought** it.)

Interrogative form: '**the subject**' and '**had**' switch places

- **Had I entered** the room before you called me?
- **Had you moved** to Japan before you turned 18?
- **Had she studied** English before she moved to the USA?



## Past Perfect Simple Tense Usage

This tense is used when:

### 1. Something occurred before another action in the past.

- John **had** already **finished** his lunch when David saw him.

*(Both actions, John finishing lunch and David seeing John, happened in the past, but lunch came first.)*

### 2. Something happened before a specific time in the past.

- I **had** never **been** to Australia until last year.
- He **had been** sick until yesterday.



## Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

*Fill in the blanks with the past perfect simple form of the verb in brackets.*

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ in Hong Kong, before I moved to New York. (live)
2. By the time this company contacted me, I \_\_\_\_\_ a new job already. (find)
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ so much fun for a long time before meeting you all. (not have)
4. The children \_\_\_\_\_ so much for lunch that they could not eat dinner that day. (eat)
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ to move to Europe, but then my mother got sick, so we decided not to. (want)
6. My secretary \_\_\_\_\_ the documents in time for our meeting at 3 pm yesterday. (not print)
7. How long \_\_\_\_\_ before you got married? (date)
8. How long \_\_\_\_\_ before the police arrived? (wait)



## Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

*Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.*

**Example:** lived together for five years, got married. → They had lived together for five years before they got married.

### Content:

1. plane left, arrived at the airport.
2. snowed at night, school was cancelled.
3. dated for 8 years, Peter left Julie.
4. drank a lot, could not drive.
5. did not do homework, could not answer question in class.
6. did not finish lunch, meeting started.