

# Past Perfect

---

# Past Perfect - Introduction

---

Past perfect makes clear the order of events in the past.

It is one of the less frequently used tenses.

# Past Perfect - Usage

---

Past perfect is used for

- referring to a point further in the past from a past point in time
- unlikely or impossible past situations – third conditional
- reported speech

# Past Perfect - Formation

---

Positive:

subject + had + past participle

I had liked ice-cream.

Negative:

subject + had not + past participle

We hadn't liked ice-cream.

Question:

had + subject + past participle

Had she liked ice-cream?

Negative question:

had not + subject + past participle

Hadn't he liked ice-cream?

# Past Perfect – Examples

---

referring to a point further in the past from a past point in time

- I had saved my files before the computer froze.
- We were late. The film had started by the time we arrived.

unlikely or impossible past situations – third conditional

- If I had worked harder, I would have passed the exam.
- If I knew you were visiting, I would have baked a cake.

reported speech

- “I have already eaten” – he said he had already eaten.
- “I have finished my homework” – she said she had finished her homework.