

## past Perfect Tense :

An action that happened before another event in the past.

The Past Perfect tense is used to express something that happened before another action in the past.

For example: i.) I had washed the car before it rained.

ii.) You had drunk sweet coffee.

iii.) Drake had played hockey.

### Form:-

[had + past participle] V3

### Structure :-

Subject + had + past participle form of verb + Object.

For irregular verbs, use the past participle form (see list of irregular verbs, 3rd column). For regular verbs, just add *ed*.

### Use of Past Perfect

- action taking place before a certain time in the past(putting emphasis only on the fact, not the duration)
- Example: Before I came here, I *had spoken* to Jack.
- Conditional Sentences Type III (condition that was not given in the past)
- Example: If I *had seen* him, I would have talked to him.

### Useful Tip

#### Time Expressions in the Past Perfect Simple

The time expressions already, for, since, and yet may be used in the past perfect simple, as they are in the present perfect simple. Remember the following rules for using other time expressions:

- Use after, as soon as, the moment that, until before using the past perfect simple.
- Ex: **After** she **had moved out**, I found her notes./ I didn't say anything **until** she **had finished** talking.
- Use before, when, by the time before the past simple:
- Ex. **Before** I **knew** it, she had run out the door. / **By the time** he **phoned** her, she had found someone new.

**Sometimes the past perfect simple is used on its own and the action that took place afterwards is understood.**

- After Sofie had finished her work, she went to lunch.
- (First she finished her work and then she went to eat lunch.)
- I washed the floor when the painter had gone.
- (First the painter left and then I washed the floor.)
- Harold had known about it for a while.
- (First he knew about it, then others knew about it)

**Note: Had Had – A verb combination that often causes confusion in the past perfect simple is had had.**

**Ex. I had had enough to eat but I wanted dessert anyway. The first had is the auxiliary (or helping) verb and the second had is the V3 (or past participle) of the main verb to have. It means that even though I ate enough, I wanted dessert after that. It may look strange, but it is correct.**

