### 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.

## **Use of the past perfect**

**Past Perfect expresses:** Something happened before another action in the past or something happened before a specific time in the past.

**Conditional Sentences Type III** (condition that was not given in the past)

Example: If I had seen him, I would have talked to him.

He had worked hard before he became ill.

They had talked to the teacher before they left the school.

**Structures:**

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| **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. |

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| ***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. |

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| **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. |

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| ***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 signal words**

after, before, when,already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day (with reference to the past, not the present)

### **Examples past perfect signal words:**

I had eaten my breakfast before I went to school.

Before we read the book, we had bought the book.

We did our homework after we had seen a film.

After he had sent an email, he got an answer.

When he left school, he had learned for years.

When she arrived in London, she had waited for hours.

Quick Test:

#### **Write the past participle (3rd form) of the following irregular verbs.**

1. speak -
2. catch -
3. eat -
4. understand -
5. begin -

#### **Complete the sentences in Past Perfect Simple (positive).**

1. I lost the key that he (give) to me.
2. She told me that she (see) a ghost.
3. I went downstairs because I (hear) a noise.
4. When they came home, Sue (cook) dinner already.
5. We could not send you a postcard because we (forget) our address book.

#### **Complete the sentences in Past Perfect Simple (negative).**

1. The waiter served something that we (not / order) .
2. He went to Alaska where he (not / be) before.
3. She put on the red dress, which she (not / wear) for ages.
4. He (not / play) tennis before that day.
5. His mother was angry because he (not / help) her with the shopping.

#### **Complete the questions in Past Perfect Simple.**

1. (you / finish) your homework before you went to the cinema?
2. (why / you / clean) the bathroom before you bathed the dog?
3. (you / have) breakfast before you came here?
4. (she / find) a place to stay when she went to Boston?
5. (where / she / live) before she moved to Chicago?