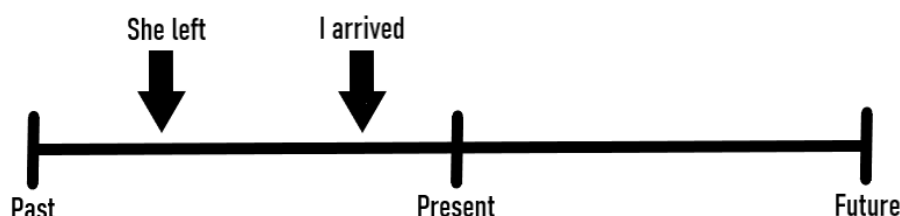


Past Perfect

Past perfect is used when one thing happens before another thing in the past.

The structure is "had + past participle".

Eg *She had left by the time I arrived.*



Past perfect is often used with past simple. Past simple (*I arrived*) is the event that happened most recently, whereas past perfect (*had left*) is the event that happened first.

Past perfect *continuous* is very similar to past perfect, but is more focussed on a process than a result.

The structure is "had + been + (verb +ing)"

Eg. *She had been waiting for over an hour by the time I got there.*



1. Fill in the gaps using the verb in the brackets in past perfect or the past perfect continuous.

- a) Sasha **had finished** (finish) work for the day, and now she was on her way home.
- b) Harry **hadn't left** (leave/negative) the house in days, and was beginning to feel like he had cabin fever.
- c) The IT department **had been updating** (update) their software when the crash happened.
- d) That's a really good point. I **hadn't thought** (think/negative) about that.
- e) The bear **had found** (find) a safe place for the winter, and would hibernate until spring.
- f) She **hadn't been feeling** (feel/negative) well, so she decided to go to a doctor.
- g) Molly was exhausted. She **had** never **been** (be) this tired before.
- h) The school **had left** (leave) the students shoes outside, so when it began to rain, they all got soaked.
- i) By the time I informed his bank, scammers **had** already **stolen** (steal) most of my grandfather's money.



2. Join the sentences with the expression in the brackets and add past perfect.

a) I couldn't use my phone. I broke it the day before (because)

E.g. *I couldn't use my phone because I had broken it the day before.*

b). We decided to watch the movie again. We saw it 2 years ago. (even though)

We decided to watch the movie again even though we had seen it two years ago.

c) I was starving. I didn't eat breakfast that day. (because)

I was starving because I hadn't eaten breakfast that day.

d) They read the contract carefully. Then they agreed to the terms. (before)

They had read the contract carefully before they agreed to the terms.

e) She became a famous actress. She turned 21. (by the time)

She had become a famous actress by the time she had turned 21.

f) He was quite emotional. He didn't see his family for 2 years before that. (since)

He was quite emotional since he hadn't seen his family for 2 years before that.

g) They finally arrived in Dubai. They were on the plane for 7 hours. (after)

They finally arrived in Dubai after they had been on the plane for 7 hours.



3. Read the story below and choose between past simple and past perfect.

In the 1960's Russia and America were/had been at the height of what was called the "space race." The two countries were/had been locked in a race to get to the moon, and by 1965 both countries made/had made great leaps forward in technology to achieve that goal. One of the smaller devices the American government worked/had been working on was the humble pen. American scientists realised/had realised a few years prior that normal pens would not work in space due to the effects of gravity on ink. In the years before the launch, the American government spent/had spent millions developing a special "space pen" so their astronauts could write in space. In 1965 the pen was/had been finally finished. An American diplomat had taken/took a prototype of the pen to the Russian Embassy in America. The diplomat was explaining the pen to a Russian ambassador when the ambassador suddenly started/had started laughing and laughing and laughing. At first the diplomat thought the ambassador went/had gone crazy, but then the ambassador picked up/had picked up a pencil from his desk. "We just use this" he said/had said.