

## PAST PERFECT TENSE

We use the past perfect to describe an action or actions that occurred in the past before another action happened.

*Examples:*

When you came home, Mario had already left.

She quit her job but she had saved enough money for her trip.

I was taking a shower when she had called.

When he got home he had found out that someone had broken into his home. I was playing baseball when it had started to rain.

They didn't want to go with us because they had already seen the movie.

We didn't go to dinner because we had already eaten.

Notice that in the above examples that one action was in progress or finished before another action occurred.

You came home but Mario had already left. (Mario left before you came home).

She quit her job but she had saved enough money for her trip. (She saved enough money for her trip before she quit her job).

I was taking a shower when you had called. (I was in the process of taking a shower).

When he got home he found out that someone had broken into his home. (Someone broke into his home before he knew about it).

I was playing baseball when it had started to rain. (I was in the process of playing baseball and after it started to rain).

They didn't want to go with us because they had already seen the movie. (They saw the movie before we asked them to go with us).

We didn't go to dinner because we had already eaten. (We ate before someone asked us to go to dinner with them).

Note: To intensify the action we often use the word "already" in the affirmative and "yet" in the negative.

*Examples:*

I had already eaten when they asked me to dinner. (Affirmative)

I hadn't eaten yet when....(negative)

Hector had already finished his homework when his friend arrived. (Affirmative)

Hector hadn't finished his homework yet when....(negative)

She had already been shopping.(affirmative)

She hadn't been shopping yet when.....(negative)

Note: We often use the word "never" when using the past perfect in the negative.

*Examples:*

I had never been to Spain before.

You had never met her.

She had never flown before.

He had never seen her at the party. It

had never rained this hard before.

They had never sent us a letter.

We had never eaten so much in our lives.



The structure for the past perfect tense is as follows:

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>+ HAD</b>	<b>+ PAST PARTICIPLE</b>	<b>+ COMPLEMENTIZER</b>
I	had	eaten	before coming her.
You	had	been	there before.
He	had	flown	several times.
She	had	seen	him many times before.
It	had	rained	a lot in those days.
We	had	bought	the gifts already.
They	had	met	each other once.

Note: It's sometimes easy to confuse the present perfect with the past perfect. Look at the examples below and compare:

#### **PRESENT PERFECT**

A: Who is that guy?

B: I don't know, I've never met him.

We aren't tired, we've slept a lot.

She is angry at him, he's cheated on her.

They are tired now, they have traveled a lot.

#### **PAST PERFECT**

A: Who was that guy?

B: I don't know, I hadn't met him.

We weren't tired, we'd slept a lot.

She was angry at him, he had cheated on her.

They were tired, they had traveled



Select the correct form of the past perfect tense. Remember to read the carefully so that you can pick the right answer.

*Examples:*

By the time she got to know about the news for college, her parents \_\_\_\_\_ to let her know.

- A. have already called her     **B. had already called**

1. By the time I got home, my mother \_\_\_\_\_

- A. has already left     B. had already left.

2. He \_\_\_\_\_ the mail by the time he was asked to do it.

- A. has already sent     B. had already sent

3. She \_\_\_\_\_ some money before quitting her job.

- A. had saved     B. have saved

4. The meeting \_\_\_\_\_ by the time we arrived.

- A. had already ended     B. has already ended

5. I was taking a bath when you \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. have called     B. had called

6. Mario \_\_\_\_\_ his report when his friend came over.

- A. have already finished     B. had already finishing

7. The show \_\_\_\_\_ by the time we arrived.

- A. has already started     B. had already started

8. It \_\_\_\_\_ to rain by the time the show was over.

- A. had already started     B. has already started

9. She \_\_\_\_\_ to France before.

- A. had never been     B. had never being

10. We \_\_\_\_\_ dinner when you invited us to go out.

- A. have already eaten     B. had already eaten

11. I \_\_\_\_\_ so much food in my entire life.

- A. had never eaten     B. have never eaten

