



Past perfect (I had done)


Study this example situation:


At 10.30 



Bye!

PAUL

Half an hour later 



Hello!

SARAH

Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too but they didn't see each other. Paul went home at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So: When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there. He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had + past participle (gone/seen/finished etc.)**. For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

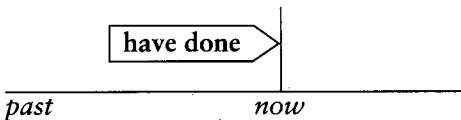
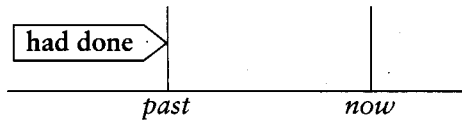
This is the *starting point* of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had...**):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already gone home.

Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to come to the cinema with us because she **had** already seen the film.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a serious mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before. / He **had** never flown before.

Had done (past perfect) is the past of **have done** (present perfect). Compare:

<p><i>present perfect</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is that woman? I've never seen her before. • We aren't hungry. We've just had lunch. • The house is dirty. They haven't cleaned it for weeks. 	<p><i>past perfect</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I didn't know who she was. I'd never seen her before. (= before that time) • We weren't hungry. We'd just had lunch. • The house was dirty. They hadn't cleaned it for weeks.
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Compare the past perfect (**I had done**) and past simple (**I did**):

- 'Was Tom at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he **had** already gone home.'
- but* 'Was Tom there when you arrived?' 'Yes, but he **went** home soon afterwards.'
- Ann wasn't at home when I phoned. She **was** in London.
- but* Ann **had** just got home when I phoned. She **had been** in London.

EXERCISES

15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Jill's house but she wasn't there. (she / go / out) ...She had gone out.
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before. (it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party but she couldn't come. (she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You arrived at the cinema late. (the film / already / begin)
- 5 I was very pleased to see Tim again after such a long time. (I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat but she wasn't hungry. (she / just / have / breakfast)

15.2 Read the situations and write sentences ending with before. Use the verb given in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight. (fly) ...He had never flown before. OR He hadn't flown before.
- 2 A woman walked into the room. She was a complete stranger to me. (see) I before.
- 3 Simon played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game. (play) He
- 4 Last year we went to Denmark. It was our first time there. (be) We

15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened - so (1) happened before (2), (2) before (3) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

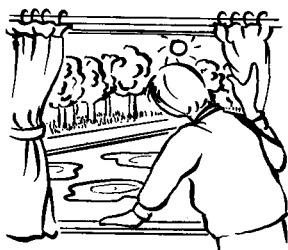
- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 (1) Somebody broke into the office during the night. (2) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u> (3) We called the police. | } We arrived at work in the morning and found that somebody ... <u>had broken</u> ... into the office during the night. So we |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 (1) Ann went out. (2) <u>I tried to phone her</u> this morning. (3) There was no answer. | } I tried to phone Ann this morning but no answer. She out. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 (1) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago. (2) <u>I met him the same day.</u> (3) He looked very well. | } I met Jim a few days ago. He just
He |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 (1) Kevin wrote to Sally many times. (2) She never replied to his letters. (3) <u>Yesterday he had a phone call from her.</u> (4) He was very surprised. | } Yesterday Kevin
He very surprised. He many times but she |

15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (I had done etc.) or past simple (I did etc.).

- 1 'Was Tom at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he ... had gone ... (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we (see) a car which (break) down, so we (stop) to see if we could help.

Past perfect continuous (**I had been doing**)

A Study this example situation:



Yesterday morning

Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining but the ground was very wet.

It **had been raining**.

It was *not* raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had been raining** before. That's why the ground was wet.

Had been -ing is the *past perfect continuous*:

I/we/you/they he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	been	doing working playing etc.
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Some more examples:

- When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was untidy and one of them had a black eye. They'd **been fighting**.
- I was very tired when I arrived home. I'd **been working** hard all day.

B You can say that something **had been happening** for a period of time *before something else happened*:

- Our game of tennis was interrupted. We'd **been playing** for about half an hour when it started to rain very heavily.
- Ken gave up smoking two years ago. He'd **been smoking** for 30 years.

C **Had been -ing** (*past perfect continuous*) is the past of **have been -ing** (*present perfect continuous*). Compare:

<i>present perfect continuous</i>	<i>past perfect continuous</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I hope the bus comes soon. I've been waiting for 20 minutes. (<i>before now</i>) • He's out of breath. He has been running. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At last the bus came. I'd been waiting for 20 minutes. (<i>before the bus came</i>) • He was out of breath. He had been running.

D Compare **had been doing** and **was doing** (*past continuous*):

- It **wasn't raining** when we went out. The sun was **shining**. But it **had been raining**, so the ground was wet.
- Ann **was sitting** in an armchair watching television. She was tired because she'd **been working very hard**.

E Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (*not 'had been knowing'*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A.

EXERCISES

16.1 Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 I was very tired when I arrived home.
(I / work / hard all day) ... I had been working hard all day...
- 2 The two boys came into the house. They had a football and they were both very tired.
(they / play / football)
- 3 There was nobody in the room but there was a smell of cigarettes.
(somebody / smoke / in the room)
- 4 Ann woke up in the middle of the night. She was frightened and didn't know where she was.
(she / dream)
- 5 When I got home, Mike was sitting in front of the TV. He had just turned it off.
(he / watch / TV)

16.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
We had been playing for half an hour when it started to rain...
- 2 I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes I suddenly realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
I for 20 minutes when I
- 3 Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
At the time the factory, Sarah there for five years.
- 4 I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly began shouting.
The orchestra when
- 5 *This time make your own sentence:*
I began walking along the road. I
when

16.3 Put the verb into the most suitable form, past continuous (I was doing), past perfect (I had done) or past perfect continuous (I had been doing).

- 1 It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours were having (have) a party.
- 2 We were good friends. We had known (know) each other for a long time.
- 3 John and I went for a walk. I had difficulty keeping up with him because he (walk) so fast.
- 4 Mary was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. She (run).
- 5 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full. They (eat).
- 6 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty but their stomachs were full. They (eat).
- 7 Jim was on his hands and knees on the floor. He (look) for his contact lens.
- 8 When I arrived, Kate (wait) for me. She was rather annoyed with me because I was late and she (wait) for a very long time.
- 9 I was sad when I sold my car. I (have) it for a very long time.
- 10 We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. We (travel) for more than 24 hours.

UNIT 15**15.1**

- 2 It had changed a lot.
- 3 She had arranged to do something else. / She'd arranged...
- 4 The film had already begun.
- 5 I hadn't seen him for five years.
- 6 She had just had breakfast. / She'd just had...

15.2

- 2 I had never seen her before. / I'd never seen...
- 3 He had never played tennis before. / He'd never played...
- 4 We had never been there before. / We'd never been there before. or ...been to Denmark before.

15.3

- 1 called the police
- 2 there was ... had gone / 'd gone
- 3 had just come back from holiday / 'd just come...
looked very well
- 4 had a phone call from Sally
was
had written to her / 'd written...
had never replied to his letters / 'd never replied...

15.4

- 2 went
- 3 had gone
- 4 broke
- 5 saw ... had broken ... stopped

UNIT 16**16.1**

- 2 They had been playing football. / . They'd been playing...
- 3 Somebody had been smoking in the room.
- 4 She had been dreaming. / She'd been dreaming.
- 5 He had been watching TV. / He'd been watching...

16.2

- 2 I had been waiting for 20 minutes when I suddenly realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
- 3 At the time the factory closed down, Sarah had been working there for five years.
- 4 The orchestra had been playing for about ten minutes when a man in the audience suddenly began shouting.
- 5 *Example answer:*
I had been walking along the road for about ten minutes when a car suddenly stopped just behind me.

16.3

- 3 was walking
- 4 had / 'd been running
- 5 were eating
- 6 had been eating (had eaten *is also possible*)
- 7 was looking
- 8 was waiting ... had been waiting / 'd been waiting
- 9 had had / 'd had
- 10 had / 'd been travelling

UNIT 17**17.1**

- 3 I haven't got a ladder. / I don't have a ladder.
- 4 We didn't have enough time.
- 5 He didn't have a map.
- 6 She hasn't got any money. / She doesn't have any money.
- 7 They haven't got a key. / They don't have a key.
- 8 I didn't have a camera.

17.2

- 2 Have you got / Do you have
- 3 Did you have
- 4 Have you got / Do you have
- 5 did you have
- 6 Have you got / Do you have
- 7 Did you have

17.3

Example answers:

- 2 I've got a bicycle (now).
I didn't have a bicycle (ten years ago).
- 3 I haven't got a guitar (now).
I had a guitar (ten years ago).
- 4 I've got a dog (now).
I had a dog (ten years ago).

17.4

- 2 has a swim
- 3 had a party
- 4 have a look
- 5 is having a rest / 's having a rest
- 6 had a chat
- 7 Did you have a nice time
- 8 had a baby
- 9 had a cigarette
- 10 was having a shower
- 11 Did you have a good flight

UNIT 18**18.1**

- 2 used to have / used to ride
- 3 used to live
- 4 used to like / used to love / used to eat
- 5 used to be