

The Past Perfect: Overview

FORM:

HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE

USE:

Use the “**past perfect**” to demonstrate that one action or situation in the past happened or existed before another related past action or situation. Use the past perfect when you have two events in the past and it is important to know which action came first: the action is completed before a particular / specific time in the past.

E.g. “*They had already left by the time we arrived*” means that they were not there, when we arrived, we did not see them there.

EXAMPLES:

*We went back to Banff because we had always enjoyed our holidays there.
Because I had eaten before the meeting, I courageously resisted the doughnuts.*

Fill in the blanks with the PAST PERFECT form of the verb on the right.

1. What did he say she _____ (do) with the money?
2. He wanted to know what _____ (happen) to his briefcase.
3. Carla _____ (already leave) by the time we arrived.
4. He asked me why I _____ (not phone) him.
5. Before he came to Canada, Carlos _____ (work) as a doctor in Mexico.
6. I have been teaching for the past couple of years, but previously, I _____ (be) a journalist.
7. I was sure I _____ (see) the man before.

Write your own sentences using the PAST PERFECT.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

*Answer the questions below using the PAST PERFECT tense and the words in parenthesis in your answer.
Example: Did Mr. and Mrs. Jones drive to the beach last weekend? (the weekend before)
No, they had driven to the beach the weekend before.*

1. Did the Hendersons see a movie on Saturday night? (the night before)
No _____
2. Did George eat at a restaurant yesterday evening? (the evening before)
No _____
3. Did Rosa take a day off last week? (the week before)
No _____
4. Did you go skiing last weekend? (the weekend before)
No _____
5. Did Shirley have a pizza for dinner last night? (the night before)
No _____
6. Did Gregory take an accounting course last year? (the year before)
No _____
7. Did Philip wear his polka dot tie to work last Tuesday? (the day before)
No _____
8. Did Helen give a party last weekend? (the weekend before)
No _____
9. Did you go out of town last month? (the month before)
No _____
10. Did Mr. and Mrs. Stevens discuss politics at the dinner table yesterday evening? (the evening before)
No _____