

## Past Perfect: In Contrast to Other Tenses

**FORM:**

<b>Simple Past:</b>	<b>Regular or irregular</b>
<b>Past Continuous:</b>	<b>Was / were + ing</b>
<b>Present Perfect:</b>	<b>Has / have + past participle</b>
<b>Past Perfect:</b>	<b>Had + past participle</b>

**USE:**

- Simple Past:**
- Situation started and finished in the past.
  - Speaker and listener know when.

Regular (-ed) or Irregular (eg. went)

|-----\*-----\*-----|  
**past action                      now**

*She **cooked** a delicious meal on Saturday night.*

- Past Continuous:**
- The action must be continuing at the time you speak.
  - The action can be interrupted by a finished action.

Was / were + -ing

|-----\*-----\*-----\*-----|  
**continuing action    interrupting action              now**

*I was **eating** dinner when you called.*

- Present Perfect:**
- Connects the past to the present.
  - The situation is continuing at the time you speak **or** the situation is in unspecified time **or** the influence of the past situation is present at the time you speak.

Have / has + past participle

|-----\*-----\*-----|  
**past action----- now**

*I **have studied** English for ten years.*

- Past Perfect:**
- Demonstrates that one past situation took place before another, related past situation.
  - Relates two events in the past – need to know which came first.

Had + past participle

|-----\*-----\*-----\*-----|  
**1<sup>st</sup> action      2<sup>nd</sup> action              now**

*Sally **had finished** dinner by the time we arrived.*

## VERB CHARTS

1. Comparing the Present Perfect and the Past Perfect:	
<p><u>Present Perfect</u></p>	<p>The <b>present perfect</b> indicates an action which happened at an <u>undetermined time</u> in the past.</p> <p>E.g. I am not hungry now. I <u>have already eaten</u>.</p>
<p><u>Past Perfect</u></p>	<p>The <b>past perfect</b> indicates an action which happened <u>before</u> another action in the past.</p> <p>E.g. I was not hungry at 1:00 p.m. because I <u>had</u> already <u>eaten</u>.</p>

2. Comparing the Past Continuous and the Past Perfect:	
<p><u>Past Continuous</u></p>	<p>The <b>past continuous</b> expresses an activity that was <u>in progress</u> at a particular time in the past.</p> <p>E.g. I <u>was eating</u> when Sam came home.</p>
<p><u>Past Perfect</u></p>	<p>The <b>past perfect</b> expresses an activity that was <u>completed before a particular time</u> in the past.</p> <p>E.g. I <u>had already eaten</u> when Sam came home.</p>

**3. Comparing the Simple Past and the Past Continuous:**

Simple Past

The **simple past** indicates an action that started and finished in the past. It has no relation to the present. Specific adverbs and prepositions of time indicate the use of the simple past: in 1955, last night, two days ago, etc.

E.g. Mika went to the cinema **yesterday**.  
I had dinner at 6:00 p.m. **last night**.

X

Past Continuous

The **past continuous** expresses an activity that was in progress at a point in the past or at the time of another action. The action in the simple past always interrupts the action in the past continuous.

E.g. I was watching “Friends” **when** Bob phoned me.  
**While** I was watching a movie, John did the dishes.  
Bob’s phone call (simple past) interrupted the action of watching “Friends” (past continuous).

X      X

E.g. I was watching “Friends” **while** my husband was making dinner.

Both actions (past continuous) are in progress at the same time, so we use “**while**” to join the two actions.

**“Our Family Tradition”**

Every summer, my family and I go to Niagara Falls to have a picnic. I will explain to you what we did last July.

We had been travelling for two hours before we finally arrived in Niagara Falls at about 11:30 a.m. My dad drove to our favourite spot away from the crowds and parked along the road. We all got out of the car and stretched our legs. My sisters and I took the food and drinks from the car while my parents were spreading out the blanket. My mom’s homemade roasted chicken smelled so good! She had prepared it the night before because she didn’t want to mess up the kitchen so early in the morning! We finally sat down and ate lunch. After our meal, we cleaned up and took in the afternoon sunshine. While my mom and dad were resting, the rest of us went for a walk. After a few hours, we walked back to the picnic area and realized that my parents had cleaned everything up. We decided to drive through the downtown area on our way home to see all the attractions. I never get tired of going to Niagara Falls even though I have visited it every year since I was five.

*Fill in each blank with the correct verb tense.*

1. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ (explain) the lesson when the student \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) him a question.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) there by train this morning.
3. While she \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) around the country, she \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) some people whom she \_\_\_\_\_ (meet, already) a few years before.
4. We \_\_\_\_\_ (see) this show quite a few times.
5. This is a case of *déjà-vu* for me. I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) like this before.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) Las Vegas many times.
7. The order \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) just as I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) out.
8. The birds \_\_\_\_\_ (chirp) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (wake up) yesterday.
9. We \_\_\_\_\_ (win) thirty out of thirty-two games so far.
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in this country for three years now.
11. I \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) four hours reading those magazines last week.
12. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do) when the murder \_\_\_\_\_ (happen)?
13. She said that she \_\_\_\_\_ (know) about the promotion before she \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) the good news.
14. Elizabeth \_\_\_\_\_ (submit) the report which she \_\_\_\_\_ (write).
15. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you read) when I \_\_\_\_\_ (come) home yesterday?
16. Since when \_\_\_\_\_ (Peter be) the head of the department?
17. They \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) the burgers which they \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) in the supermarket.
18. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do) when you realized your wallet \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) out of your pocket?
19. Tom \_\_\_\_\_ (already leave) when Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) him his lunch.
20. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) tired last night, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed early.

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 26 – Past Perfect: In Contrast to Other Tenses

21. I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to bed before the midnight talk show \_\_\_\_\_ (start).
22. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) when the midnight talk show \_\_\_\_\_ (start).
23. I \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) a lot last night, but this morning I still  
\_\_\_\_\_ (oversleep).
24. She \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) a little better after she  
\_\_\_\_\_ (drink) a glass of water.
25. While I \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) under a coconut tree, a coconut  
\_\_\_\_\_ (fall) and \_\_\_\_\_ (hit) me on the head.
26. Yesterday, Angela \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a busy day. She \_\_\_\_\_  
(prepare) a surprise party for her husband, but she only had a few hours before guests  
\_\_\_\_\_ (begin) to arrive. While Angela \_\_\_\_\_ (bake)  
a cake, she also \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the bathroom,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (vacuum) and \_\_\_\_\_ (put up) the decorations.  
The party \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a success and her husband  
\_\_\_\_\_ (be) both surprised and happy.