



The past perfect: affirmative

We use the past perfect to talk about something that happened at an earlier time in the past.
*I'**d** spoken to him before.*

We form the past perfect with subject + **had** + past participle. We often use the short form '**d**.
*We'**d** eaten breakfast.*

We often use the past perfect with the past simple. Use the past simple to talk about a completed action in the past and the past perfect to talk about something that happened before that.

Past simple

*I **went** to the cinema*

Past perfect

*because I'**d** **heard** the film was very good.*

1 Circle the correct answers.

- We met the man who **had discover** / **had discovered** the treasure.
- Jenny felt ill because she '**d ate** / '**d eaten** too many olives.
- Rob showed us the place where he '**d seen** / '**d saw** the horse.
- The teacher told us that the island **had changed** / **hadn't change** since she was at school.
- I couldn't remember his name, but I knew that I'**d meet** / '**d met** him before.
- We were happy that it **had rained** / **had rain**.
- The reason we got lost is because we'**d taken** / '**d took** the wrong path.
- She didn't know that I '**d been** / '**d gone** ill.

2 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 I came home after I 'd finished (finish) the shopping.
- 2 We were happy because the museum _____ (be) so interesting.
- 3 The boys arrived home late after they _____ (miss) the school bus.
- 4 Everyone was hot because they _____ (put on) thick coats.
- 5 We didn't play for long as I _____ (tell) Mum I would be home early.
- 6 The shop _____ (deliver) Sally's present to the wrong address, but it arrived in time.
- 7 Mum was angry with Andy because she _____ (wait) a long time for him.
- 8 I was hoping to see you at the park, but you _____ (leave) when I got there.

3 Look at the picture. Sidney was getting ready for a camping trip. What had he done by midday? Write sentences with the past perfect.



- 1 buy / a new rucksack
He'd bought a new rucksack.
- 2 read / a book about camping

- 3 prepare / some food and water

- 4 borrow / Dad's compass

- 5 clean / his boots

- 6 look for / information on the Internet

Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a circle of large and very heavy stones in the south of England. It is a very mysterious place. Historians don't know how old Stonehenge is. Some say it was built 5000 years ago.

Archaeologists discovered that the stones used to make Stonehenge **hadn't come** from the local area. They found that people **had transported** the stones all the way from the Preseli hills, 250 kilometres away. How did people move these huge stones before they **had invented** the wheel?



The past perfect: negative and questions

We form the past perfect negative with subject + **hadn't** + past participle. Remember **hadn't** = **had not**.
*I **hadn't** spoken to him before.*

We form past perfect questions with **had** + subject + past participle. We form short answers with **had** or **hadn't**.
***Had** you **eaten** breakfast before your exam?
Yes, I **had**. OR No, I **hadn't**.*

4 Tick (✓) the sentences that are correct.

- 1 The car was in good condition because it hadn't been used much. ☒
The car had been in good condition because it didn't be used much. ☐
- 2 Gary emailed George because he didn't write to him for a long time. ☐
Gary emailed George because he hadn't written to him for a long time. ☐
- 3 Had you been to Stonehenge before today? ☐
Had you go to Stonehenge before today? ☐
- 4 Penny was late for school because she hadn't left home on time. ☐
Penny was late for school because she didn't left home on time. ☐
- 5 How long had you wait before the bus came? ☐
How long had you waited before the bus came? ☐

5 Rewrite the sentences. Use the negative form of the past perfect.

1 Jenny had left when we arrived.

Jenny hadn't left when we arrived.

2 Charlie had run a long way to get to school.

3 Jasper and Edward had bought the last two concert tickets.

4 The weather had been sunny all week.

5 The builders had made a lot of mistakes.

6 The coins had been buried for thousands of years.

7 I'd spoken to the new boy.

8 The ship had sunk a hundred miles from the coast.

6 Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect and the past simple.

1 Mum bought the ingredients. Then she made the cake.

After Mum had bought the ingredients, she made the cake.

2 They found the evidence. Then they arrested the man.

After _____

3 Our team played a difficult match. The players were very tired.

After _____

4 The boat hit an iceberg. Then it sank.

After _____

5 I wrote to my penfriend. Then he phoned me.

After _____

6 They explored the area. Then they found the carvings.

After _____

7 The boys solved the clues. Then they discovered the treasure.

After _____

8 They decided to sail east. The weather got worse.

After _____

7 Answer the questions. Use the past perfect.



Why didn't Mrs Robertson make the cake?

Because she hadn't bought any eggs.



Why didn't the children play football?

Because _____



Why didn't Olly finish his project?

Because _____



Why didn't the girls buy an ice cream?

Because _____



Why was George sad?

Because _____



Why was Fred late to school?

Because _____



Why was Carla so hungry yesterday?

Because _____



Why did the journalist interview Ethan?

Because _____

8 Look at the table. Write the questions and short answers with the past perfect.

	use a compass	go rock climbing	look for treasure	see a shipwreck	meet an explorer
Ryan	X	X	✓	X	✓
Tommy	✓	✓	X	X	X
Martin	X	✓	X	X	✓
Maddy	✓	X	✓	X	X
Beth	X	X	✓	X	✓

Before last summer ...

1 Ryan / use a compass

Had Ryan used a compass? No, he hadn't.

2 Ryan / look for treasure

3 Tommy / look for treasure

4 Martin and Beth / meet an explorer

5 Martin / use a compass

6 Tommy and Martin / go rock climbing

7 Maddy and Beth / look for treasure

8 any of the children / see a shipwreck

9 Look at exercise 8. Write true sentences for yourself. Use the past perfect.

Before last summer ...

1 use a compass _____

2 go rock climbing _____

3 look for treasure _____

4 see a shipwreck _____

5 meet an explorer _____