

Past Perfect Tense

Choose the correct verb from the list below to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the past perfect tense (had & past participle).

make start write leave forget fly escape close give ring eat change go see

1. When I got to the house, Mary wasn't there. She _____ already _____ .
2. I didn't recognize my old classmate because she _____ so much.
3. We were late for the show last night. By the time we got to the theater, the movie _____ already _____ .
4. Yesterday I went on my first plane trip. I was very nervous because I _____ never _____ before.
5. I couldn't eat much dinner last night because I _____ such a big lunch.
6. I couldn't buy any groceries last night because when I got to the supermarket, it _____ already _____ .
7. Last week our teacher gave back the essays we _____ the week before.
8. The house was quiet when Andrew got home. Everyone _____ to bed several hours earlier.
9. They got to school late yesterday. The bell _____ already _____ .
10. Sheila couldn't come to my house last night because she _____ already _____ other plans.
11. We couldn't find the house. It was clear that he _____ us the wrong address.
12. Annie didn't want to come to the movie with us because she _____ it the week before.
13. By the time the police arrived at the bank, the robber _____ already _____ .
14. I couldn't get into my apartment when I came home from work last night because I _____ to take my key.

Past Perfect Tense with “By the Time... and Already”

Make sentences with the past perfect and the words provided. Follow the example below.

Ex. I missed my plane. (airport/ plane take off)

By the time I got to the airport, the plane had already taken off.

1. I missed the show. (theater/ movie start)

2. I couldn't get my prescription. (drugstore/ close)

3. I couldn't say goodbye to my friends. (call their house/ they leave)

4. I didn't get the job. (I apply/ they hire someone else)

5. We couldn't buy the house. (we see/ someone else make an offer)

6. The house was destroyed. (the firemen arrive/ house burn down)

7. I didn't get to taste her chocolate cake. (I arrive/ her children eat whole thing)

8. I didn't see her when she was sick. (I go/ hospital/ she go home)

9. I didn't see the game. (I turn on the TV/ game finish)

10. I missed my daughter's performance. (I arrive concert/ my daughter finish her song)

Past Perfect Tense – Negative

Complete the sentences below using the past perfect in the negative and the words provided.

Ex. My house was very dirty when she came over because.... (I/ not clean/ for weeks)
My house was very dirty when she came over because I hadn't cleaned it for weeks.

1. Joe had to study hard for yesterday's test because... (he/not do well/ the week before)

2. I was worried when she didn't arrive on time because... (she/ not be/ late/ before)

3. Judy didn't want to go on the school ski trip because (she/not ski/ before)

4. I didn't recognize Ellen at the party because.... (I not/see/ for years)

5. John didn't catch the bus because.... (he/not leave/ the house/ on time)

6. Andy ate a huge supper last night because... (he/not eat/ all day)

7. The farmers' fields were very dry because... (it/not rain/ for weeks)

8. Roberta's hair looked terrible last night because... (she/not comb/ all day)

9. Amanda was exhausted yesterday because.... (she/not sleep/ well/for several days)

10. I was so happy when I got to the theater because (the movie/ not start/ yet)

Past Perfect Tense – With Already and Yet

Affirmative and Negative

Yesterday was Valentine’s Day. Rita’s boyfriend, Tom, came for dinner at 5:00.

Rita’s Schedule Yesterday

Time	Activity
10:00	Clean the house
12:30	Buy groceries
2:00	Bake a cake
3:00	Cook a roast
4:00	Prepare the vegetables
4:30	Set the table
5:30	Make a salad
6:00	Choose some romantic music
6:30	Make a fire
7:00	Light the candles
7:30	Serve the meal

Make sentences with the past perfect tense to tell what Rita had already done when Tom arrived and what she hadn’t done yet.

Ex. *When Tom arrived, Rita had already cleaned the house.*

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Past Perfect Tense

A. Match the first part of the sentence on the left with the correct ending on the right.

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|--|--|
| 1. Betty's plants died because.... ____ | a) she had lost her doll. |
| 2. Bob couldn't buy the new computer because.... ____ | b) she had left her purse at home. |
| 3. Sammy couldn't fall asleep last night because... ____ | c) he had already left the office. |
| 4. The little girl was crying because... ____ | d) he hadn't studied at all. |
| 5. I didn't have to buy groceries because... ____ | e) he had spent all his money. |
| 6. Kevin failed his exam because... ____ | f) she had forgotten to set the alarm. |
| 7. Monty bought a new camera because.... ____ | g) she hadn't watered them. |
| 8. Clara couldn't pay for lunch because... ____ | h) he had watched a scary movie. |
| 9. Susan slept late because... ____ | i) I had gone shopping the day before. |
| 10. I couldn't speak to the boss because... ____ | j) he had lost his old one. |

B. Complete the following sentences using the past perfect tense and the words provided.

Ex. I didn't meet Ellie for lunch because..... (she/eat/)

I didn't meet Ellie for lunch because she had already eaten.

1. My trip to New York was very exciting because..... (I/not be/ before)

2. I couldn't see the doctor because..... (he/already/ leave the office)

3. I couldn't buy the car I wanted because..... (the car dealer/ already/ sell)

4. We couldn't see the new exhibit because..... (the museum/already/close)

Verb Tense Review

Past Perfect, Present Perfect, and Simple Past

Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the verb provided and the correct tense: past perfect, present perfect or simple past

1. I was disappointed when I _____ (arrive) at the party last night, because most of my friends _____ already _____ (go) home.
2. I _____ never _____ (be) to France, but I would love to go.
3. I _____ (invite) some friends to come for dinner last night, but they couldn't come because they _____ already _____ (make) other plans.
4. It is still snowing. It _____ (start) to snow last night and it _____ (not/stop) yet.
5. I _____ (go) to a concert last night. I _____ (enjoy) it so much because _____ (not/go) to a concert for several years.
6. I _____ (get) home quite late last night. My children _____ already _____ (fall) asleep.
7. I know the new neighbors. I _____ (meet) them last week.
8. Last night I _____ (spend) the evening with my friends. I wanted to go bowling because I _____ never _____ (go) bowling before.
9. Linda is still sick. She _____ (have) a bad cold for over a week.
10. Bob wants to buy a new car. He _____ (own) this one for ten years.
11. Vicky _____ (not/get) to class on time yesterday. By the time she _____ (arrive), the class _____ already _____ (start).
12. We _____ (study) six new verb tenses so far and we're going to learn several more this semester.
13. I missed the meeting yesterday. It _____ just _____ (finish) when I got there.
14. John _____ (quit) smoking a long time ago. He _____ (not/have) a cigarette in over five years.

Past Perfect Progressive (Continuous) Tense

Use the information provided below to make sentences with present perfect progressive tense and “ever since”.

plan - eat - sit - burn - fight - lose - rain - smoke -
wait - give - look - date - work - look forward to

1. When the boys came home, both had black eyes. They had been fighting.
2. Mary's mouth was all red. She _____ a strawberry ice cream.
3. When I woke up this morning, the sun was shining, but the ground was all wet. It _____ during the night.
4. The firemen finally put out the fire. It _____ for several hours before they arrived.
5. When I went to Carol's house yesterday, her hands were covered in mud. She _____ in the garden for a few hours before I got there.
6. Michael bought a new computer last week because his old one _____ him trouble for quite some time.
7. Mr. Jones finally had to close his business. It _____ money for several years.
8. The police _____ for the thief for six months before they finally caught him.
9. It is too bad that Cathy had to cancel her trip last week. She _____ it for such a long time.
10. Larry _____ on the corner for Patty for over an hour before she finally arrived.
11. When I went home last night, I could smell cigarettes in the house. Somebody _____ before I got home.
12. Bob _____ Mary for over two years before she finally broke up with him.
13. Marcia was very disappointed when we had to cancel our lunch date. She _____ it for a long time.
14. I _____ in the waiting room for over an hour before the doctor finally arrived.

Past Perfect Progressive (Continuous) Tense with Before

Complete the following sentences with the past perfect progressive tense and the verbs provided.

1. Mrs. Anderson _____ (try) to get a taxi for over half an hour before she finally caught one.
2. Ben's eyes _____ (bother) him for over a year before he finally got glasses.
3. Marta _____ (live) in her apartment for six months before she finally met her neighbors.
4. The patient _____ (wait) in the emergency room for several hours before a doctor finally saw him.
5. Ellie _____ (try on) shoes all morning before she finally bought a pair.
6. Chris _____ (date) Sue for three years before he finally asked her to marry him.
7. The doctor _____ (tell) me to lose weight for years before I finally decided to go on a diet.
8. The fire alarm _____ (ring) for five minutes before he finally woke up and ran out of the apartment.
9. They _____ (drive) for hours before they finally saw a service station.
10. Andrea _____ (cry) for hours before she finally told her parents the reason why she was so unhappy.
11. The politician _____ (travel) across the country for months before he finally started to gain popularity.
12. We _____ (work) for over five hours before the boss finally told us to take a break.
13. The athlete _____ (train) for many years before he made the Olympic team.
14. The author _____ (write) stories for years before he finally had a book published.

Past Perfect Progressive (Continuous) Tense with Because

Use the words provided to write sentences with the past perfect progressive tense and the word *'because'*.

Ex. *Richard was digging in the garden all afternoon.*

Richard took a nap before dinner.

Richard took a nap before dinner because he had been digging in the garden all afternoon.

1. My old car gave me a lot of trouble for a long time. I bought a new car.

2. Billy drank a lot of beer last Saturday night. Billy had a bad headache last Sunday.

3. Judith studied very hard all month for her history test. She did very well on the test.

4. Annie practiced the poem for weeks. Annie could recite the poem by heart.

5. Faye waited for me for over an hour. Faye was angry at me when I arrived.

6. Jonathon worked on his car all afternoon. Jonathon's hands were covered in grease.

7. The team practiced every day for weeks. The team won the championship game.

Review – Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive

Walk around the classroom and interview your classmates. (Write the questions below before you begin your search.)

Find someone who...

1. had never studied English before he/she started this course. _____

2. had been sitting in the classroom for awhile before the teacher arrived today. _____

3. had known some of the students in this class before the term started. _____

4. had already woken up before his/her alarm clock rang this morning. _____

5. had been waiting for the bus for a long time before it finally arrived this morning. _____

6. had been studying for a long time before he/she went to bed last night. _____

7. had studied past perfect tense before he/she came to this class. _____

8. had met our teacher before this course began. _____

9. hadn't eaten anything before he/she left the house this morning. _____

Answers

Page 1.

1. had already left 2. had changed 3. had already started 4. had never flown 5. had eaten 6. had already closed 7. had written
8. had gone 9. had already rung 10. had already made 11. had given 12. had seen 13. had escaped 14. had forgotten

Page 2.

1. By the time I got to the theater, the movie had already started. 2. By the time I got to the drugstore, it had already closed. 3. By the time I called their house, they had already left. 4. By the time I applied, they had already hired someone else. 5. By the time we saw the house, someone had already made an offer. 6. By the time the firemen arrived, the house had already burned down. 7. By the time I arrived, her children had already eaten the whole cake. 8. By the time I got to the hospital, she had already gone home. 9. By the time I turned on the TV, the game had already finished. 10. By the time I arrived at the concert, my daughter had already finished her song.

Page 3.

1. ...he hadn't done well the week before. 2. ...she had not been late before. 3. ...she had not skied before. 4. ...I had not seen her for years. 5. ...he had not left the house on time. 6. ...he had not eaten all day. 7. ...it had not rained for weeks. 8. she had not combed it all day. 9. ... she had not slept well for several days. 10. ...the movie had not started yet.

Page 4.

1. When Tom arrived, Rita had already bought groceries. 2. When Tom arrived, she had already baked a cake. 3. When Tom arrived, she had already cooked a roast. 4. When Tom arrived, she had already prepared the vegetables. 5. When Tom arrived, she had already set the table. 6. When Tom arrived, she hadn't made a salad yet. 7. When Tom arrived, she hadn't chosen any romantic music yet. 8. When Tom arrived, she hadn't made a fire yet. 9. When Tom arrived, she hadn't lit the candles yet. 10. When Tom arrived, she hadn't served the meal yet.

Page 5.

A. 1. g 2. e 3. h 4. a 5. i 6. d 7. j 8. b 9. f 10. c

B. 1. I had not been to New York before. 2. he had already left the office. 3. the car dealer had already sold the car. 4. the museum had already closed.

Page 6.

1. arrived / had already gone 2. have never been 3. invited / had already made 4. started / hasn't stopped 5. went / enjoyed / had not gone
6. got / had already fallen 7. met 8. spent / had never gone 9. has had 10. has owned 11. didn't get / arrived / had already started
12. have studied 13. had just finished. 14. quit / hasn't had

Page 7.

2. had been eating 3. had been raining 4. had been burning 5. had been working 6. had been giving 7. had been losing 8. had been looking
9. had been planning 10. had been waiting 11. had been smoking 12. had been dating 13. had been looking forward to
14. had been sitting

Page 8.

1. had been trying 2. had been bothering 3. had been living 4. had been waiting 5. had been trying on 6. had been dating 7. had been telling
8. had been ringing 9. had been driving 10. had been crying 11. had been traveling 12. had been working 13. had been training
14. had been writing

Page 9.

1. I bought a new car because my old car had been giving me a lot of trouble. 2. Billy had a bad headache last Sunday, because he had been drinking a lot of beer the night before. 3. Judith did very well on the history test, because she had been studying very hard all month. 4. Annie could recite the poem by heart, because she had been practicing for weeks. 5. Faye was angry at me when I arrived, because she had been waiting for me for over an hour. 6. Jonathan's hands were covered in grease because he had been working on his car all afternoon. 7. The team won the championship game because they had been practicing everyday for weeks.