



PAST TENSE AND PAST PERFECT TENSE



PAST PERFECT

PAST PERFECT TENSE

Definition

The past perfect tense helps us talk about something that happened before something else in the past. It shows which action came first. We use "had" and the past form of the main verb to make it. It helps us tell stories in the right order.



PAST PERFECT

Timeline

She had finished her work.

Now



She	had	finished
Subject	had	Past Participle

PAST PERFECT

Time Words

Before

After

By the time

When

Until

Previously

PAST PERFECT

FORM

POSITIVE

I You He She It
We You They

had worked
'd worked

QUESTION

Had

I You He She It
We You They

worked?

NEGATIVE

I You He She It
We You They

had not worked
hadn't worked

ANSWER

Yes,

No,

I You etc.

had
had not hadn't

PAST PERFECT

USE

I opened the door and I saw that someone had left a note.



PAST PERFECT

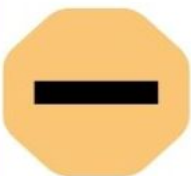


Structure

Subject + had + past participle

Examples

- She had finished her work.
- They had visited the museum.
- He had read the book.
- I had seen that movie.
- We had eaten dinner.



Structure

Sub + had not + Past Participle

Examples

- She had not completed the project.
- They had not met the new neighbor.
- He had not received the email.
- I had not visited that city.
- We had not studied for the exam.



Structure

Had + Sub + Past Participle

Examples

- Had she finished her work?
- Had I seen that movie?
- Had we eaten dinner?
- Had they visited the museum?
- Had he read the book?

PAST PERFECT

Usages

Examples

Before another past action

She had left before I arrived.

In storytelling

The sun had set when they reached the beach.

Relevance to a specific past time

He had finished by 6 PM.

Duration leading to a past point in time

He had been working for three hours before the meeting.