

Past Perfect – Test 1



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Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 30

Choose the best option (A, B, C or D) for each question.

Part 1: Form – affirmative, negative and questions

Choose the correct option to complete each sentence or answer each question.

- By the time we arrived, the film _____ already started.
A has **B** had **C** was **D** did
- Maria was tired because she _____ all day.
A has worked **B** had work **C** had worked **D** was work
- I _____ that museum before, so I was excited to go.
A didn't visited **B** haven't visited **C** hadn't visit **D** hadn't visited
- _____ you ever _____ sushi before you went to Japan?
A Had / eaten **B** Have / ate **C** Did / eaten **D** Had / ate
- They _____ the tickets, so they couldn't get in.
A hadn't buy **B** didn't bought **C** hadn't bought **D** hadn't buyed
- Choose the correct sentence.
A She had wrote the letter before lunch.
B She had written the letter before lunch.
C She has written the letter before lunch yesterday.
D She had write the letter before lunch.
- Choose the correct question.
A Did he had finished his homework when you called?
B Had he finish his homework when you called?
C Has he finished his homework when you called?
D Had he finished his homework when you called?
- "Had Tom left when you got home?" "No, he _____."
A didn't **B** hadn't **C** wasn't **D** hasn't
- When I got to the station, the train _____.
A has already left **B** had already leave
C had already left **D** had already leaving
- "We'd finished dinner when the phone rang." What does 'd mean in this sentence?
A would **B** had **C** did **D** have

Part 2: Meaning and use

Choose the option that best completes each sentence or answers the question.

11. When Ana got home, her brother — dinner, so they sat down and ate straight away.
A has cooked **B** cooks **C** was cook **D** had cooked
12. "When I arrived, the meeting had finished." Which statement is true?
A I arrived before the meeting finished.
B The meeting finished before I arrived.
C The meeting finished at the same moment I arrived.
D The meeting finished after I left.
13. I didn't want to see the film because I — already — the book and knew the ending.
A have / read **B** am / reading **C** had / read **D** did / read
14. After she — her exams, she went on holiday.
A had passed **B** has passed **C** passes **D** had pass
15. I didn't recognise Sam because he — a lot since school.
A has changed **B** had changed **C** changes **D** was changed
16. She had lived in Rome — ten years before she moved to Madrid.
A since **B** ago **C** for **D** during
17. They — never — snow until they visited Canada last winter.
A have / seen **B** did / see **C** were / seeing **D** had / seen
18. Choose the correct sentence.
A Yesterday I had gone to the cinema. **B** I went to the cinema yesterday.
C I have gone to the cinema yesterday. **D** I had go to the cinema yesterday.
19. The shop — by the time I got there, so I went home.
A has closed **B** is closed **C** had closed **D** closes
20. Ella had never flown — she went to Australia in 2019.
A since **B** until **C** for **D** yet

Part 3: Reading – the order of past events

Read the text and choose the best answer to each question.

Last summer, Priya travelled to Lisbon for a job interview. She had never been to Portugal before, so she was a little nervous. She had booked a hotel near the city centre, and she had checked the route to the office the night before.

On the morning of the interview, she woke up late because she had forgotten to set her alarm. She got dressed quickly and ran to the bus stop, but the bus had just left. Luckily, a taxi was passing, and she arrived at the office five minutes early.

The manager, Mr Okafor, smiled when she came in. He had read her application, and he had liked her ideas. After the interview had finished, Priya walked along the river. By the evening, she had received an email: she had got the job!

21. Why was Priya a little nervous?
A because she had lost her passport
B because she had missed her flight
C because she had never been to Portugal before
D because she had never had a job interview
22. Which of these things happened first?
A She woke up late.
B She took a taxi.
C She walked along the river.
D She checked the route to the office.
23. Why did Priya wake up late?
A She had forgotten to set her alarm.
B She had gone to bed very late.
C The hotel had woken her too late.
D She had been ill in the night.
24. When Priya got to the bus stop, what was the situation?
A The bus was just arriving.
B The bus was no longer there.
C She had to wait ten minutes for the bus.
D The bus left a few minutes after she arrived.
25. "He had read her application." When did Mr Okafor read it?
A during the interview
B after she left the office
C before she came in
D He didn't read it.

Part 4: Find the error

Each sentence contains one mistake. Choose the underlined part that is wrong.

26. When we got to the party, most of the guests had went home.
A When we got **B** to the party **C** most of the guests **D** had went home
27. Did the students had finished the test when the bell rang?
A Did the students had **B** finished the test
C when the bell **D** rang
28. She didn't had finished her report when the boss asked for it.
A She **B** didn't had finished
C her report **D** when the boss asked for it
29. He left for work after he has eaten breakfast.
A He left **B** for work
C after **D** he has eaten breakfast
30. By 2020, my parents lived in this house for twenty years.
A By 2020, **B** my parents
C lived in this house **D** for twenty years

Answer key – Past Perfect – Test 1

1 B	2 C	3 D	4 A	5 C	6 B	7 D	8 B	9 C	10 B
11 D	12 B	13 C	14 A	15 B	16 C	17 D	18 B	19 C	20 B
21 C	22 D	23 A	24 B	25 C	26 D	27 A	28 B	29 D	30 C

Explanations

- B** – The past perfect is formed with 'had' plus the past participle.
- C** – 'Had' must be followed by the past participle 'worked'.
- D** – The negative past perfect is 'hadn't' plus the past participle.
- A** – In past perfect questions, 'had' comes before the subject, and the past participle 'eaten' follows.
- C** – 'Bought' is the irregular past participle of 'buy'.
- B** – The past participle of 'write' is 'written', not 'wrote' or 'write'.
- D** – A past perfect question uses 'had' plus the subject plus the past participle. It does not use 'did'.
- B** – A short answer repeats the auxiliary from the question, which here is 'had'.
- C** – The train left before I arrived, so we need 'had' plus the past participle 'left'.
- B** – 'd before a past participle like 'finished' is the short form of 'had'.
- D** – The cooking was finished before Ana arrived, so the past perfect is needed.
- B** – The past perfect 'had finished' shows that this action happened first.
- C** – Reading the book happened before the past moment of not wanting to see the film.
- A** – The exams came first, so the past perfect 'had passed' is correct.
- B** – The change happened before the moment in the past when I saw him.
- C** – Use 'for' with a period of time such as 'ten years'.
- D** – The experience is described up to a point in the past, so the past perfect is used.
- B** – There is only one past action and no earlier past event, so the past simple is correct.
- C** – 'By the time' plus a past event shows something that was already complete, so the past perfect is needed.
- B** – 'Until' marks the past moment when the earlier situation ended.
- C** – The text says she had never been to Portugal before, so she was nervous.
- D** – She had checked the route the night before, so this happened before everything else in the list.
- A** – The text says she had forgotten to set her alarm.
- B** – 'The bus had just left' means it left shortly before she got there.
- C** – The past perfect shows he read it before the moment she came in.
- D** – After 'had' we need the past participle 'gone', not the past simple 'went'.
- A** – Past perfect questions start with 'Had', not 'Did': 'Had the students finished...?'
- B** – The negative form is 'hadn't finished'. Do not use 'didn't' with 'had'.
- D** – The earlier past action needs the past perfect 'had eaten', not the present perfect.
- C** – With 'by' plus a past time and a duration, use the past perfect: 'had lived'.

Notes for teachers: Use this test after teaching the past perfect, or as a diagnostic before revision. It targets common B1 errors: using the past simple form after 'had' (had went), using 'did' in past perfect questions, overusing the past perfect for single past events, and confusing it with the present perfect. For follow-up, ask learners to write a short story about a bad day using at least five past perfect verbs with 'by the time', 'already' and 'before'.