

Past Perfect – Worksheet 1

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Score: / 36



Do this worksheet
online and check your
answers instantly

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with the past perfect form of the verb in brackets.

Example: I was late because I ____ (miss) the bus. → had missed

1. When we arrived at the cinema, the film _____ (already / start).
2. Lucy was nervous because she _____ (never / fly) before.
3. I couldn't open the door because I _____ (lose) my keys.
4. They _____ (not / eat) anything all day, so they were very hungry.
5. By the time the police arrived, the thief _____ (escape).
6. How did you know the answer? _____ (you / study) this topic before?
7. Marco didn't recognise his old school because it _____ (change) so much.
8. We _____ (not / finish) dinner when the guests arrived.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

Complete the sentences with words from the box. Use each word once. There are two extra words.

WORD BOX

had hadn't after before by the time already never has was

9. _____ I had finished my homework, I watched TV.
10. The shop _____ closed, so we couldn't buy any bread.
11. _____ we got to the station, the train had left.
12. I was tired because I _____ slept well the night before.
13. She had _____ seen snow before she moved to Canada.
14. I didn't need to cook because Tom had _____ made dinner.
15. He had worked as a teacher _____ he became a writer.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

Rewrite each sentence as instructed in brackets.

Example: He had called his mum. (negative) → He hadn't called his mum.

16. She had finished the report. (negative)

17. They had visited Rome before. (question)

18. The children had gone to bed. (negative)

19. You had seen the film. (question)

20. Anna had heard the news on the radio. (question beginning with Where)

21. I had met him at a conference. (negative)

22. He had left his phone at home. (question)

23. First Paul saved the file. Then he closed the computer. (Begin: After Paul ...)

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

Example: She had forget her bag. → She had forgotten her bag.

24. When I arrived, everyone had leave.

25. She was happy because she has passed the exam.

26. Had you ate before the meeting?

27. We didn't had seen the email until Monday.

28. By the time we arrived, the concert already had started.

29. He told me he had wrote a new song.

30. I had never went to a concert before last year.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

Put the words in the correct order to make sentences and questions.

Example: had / I / the / book / read → I had read the book.

31. had / the / already / train / left

32. had / she / before / never / sushi / eaten

33. you / had / finished / your / homework / ?

34. why / they / had / early / left / ?

35. hadn't / we / the / booked / tickets

36. after / had / dinner / we / eaten / we / went / for a walk

Answer key – Past Perfect – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Complete the sentences

1. had already started

The film started before we arrived. Already goes between had and the past participle.

2. had never flown

Never goes after had, and the past participle of fly is flown.

3. had lost

Losing the keys happened before the problem with the door.

4. hadn't eaten

The negative is had not (hadn't) + past participle.

5. had escaped

The thief escaped before the police arrived.

6. Had you studied

In questions, had comes before the subject.

7. had changed

The school changed before Marco saw it again.

8. hadn't finished

Dinner was not complete at the moment the guests came.

Exercise 2: Use the words in the box

9. After

First I finished my homework, and then I watched TV.

10. had

Had + past participle shows the shop closed before we got there.

11. By the time

By the time introduces the later action. The earlier action uses the past perfect.

12. hadn't

The negative explains why I was tired.

13. never

Had never + past participle means not at any time before that moment.

14. already

Already shows the action was finished earlier than expected.

15. before

Working as a teacher came first, before becoming a writer.

Exercise 3: Rewrite the sentences

16. She hadn't finished the report.

Put not after had to make the negative.

17. Had they visited Rome before?

Put had before the subject to make a question.

18. The children hadn't gone to bed.

Use had not (hadn't) + past participle.

19. Had you seen the film?

Had comes first, then the subject, then the past participle.

20. Where had Anna heard the news?

Use question word + had + subject + past participle.

21. I hadn't met him at a conference.

Put not after had to make the negative.

22. Had he left his phone at home?

Put had before the subject to make a question.

23. After Paul had saved the file, he closed the computer.

The earlier action (saving the file) uses the past perfect.

Exercise 4: Find and correct the mistake

24. When I arrived, everyone had left.

After had, use the past participle: left.

25. She was happy because she had passed the exam.

The story is in the past, so use had, not has.

26. Had you eaten before the meeting?

The past participle of eat is eaten, not ate.

27. We hadn't seen the email until Monday.

Do not use did in the past perfect. The negative is hadn't.

28. By the time we arrived, the concert had already started.

Already goes between had and the past participle, or at the end.

29. He told me he had written a new song.

The past participle of write is written.

30. I had never been to a concert before last year.

After had, use the past participle been or gone, not went.

Exercise 5: Put the words in order

31. The train had already left.

Subject + had + already + past participle.

32. She had never eaten sushi before.

Never goes after had, and before goes at the end.

33. Had you finished your homework?

Questions start with had, followed by the subject.

34. Why had they left early?

Question word + had + subject + past participle.

35. We hadn't booked the tickets.

Subject + hadn't + past participle + object.

36. After we had eaten dinner, we went for a walk.

The reviewer's answer is correct and already accepted, so no change is needed: the past perfect 'had eaten' shows that dinner came before the walk.

Notes for teachers: Start with a quick timeline on the board to show which action happened first, then let students work through the exercises in order. Typical mistakes include using the past simple form instead of the past participle (had went, had ate) and using did in negatives (didn't had). Learners also put already and never in the wrong place. As a follow-up, ask students to write five sentences about what they had or hadn't done before they started school or got their first phone.