

Past Perfect Tense Worksheet

Six exercises with a full answer key | Grammar Flare

Name _____ Date _____

The rule

Use **had + past participle** to show which of two past actions happened first.

I had eaten before they arrived. The eating came first.

Answer key begins on page 7. Teachers may print pages 1 to 6 for students and keep the key.

Exercise 1 | Fill in the blanks

Write the past perfect form of the verb in brackets.

1. She _____ her homework before dinner. (finish)
2. They _____ the movie before we arrived. (start)
3. I _____ the book before the class discussion. (read)
4. He _____ his keys before leaving the house. (forget)
5. We _____ breakfast before the bus came. (eat)
6. The rain _____ before the match began. (stop)
7. My friend _____ the answer before I explained it. (know)
8. The guests _____ before we reached the restaurant. (leave)
9. The teacher _____ the lesson before the quiz. (teach)
10. I _____ the file before the computer shut down. (save)

Exercise 2 | Make it negative

Rewrite each sentence using **had not**. Example: She had finished the work. → She had not finished the work.

1. He had eaten lunch.

2. They had completed the project.

3. I had seen the email.

4. We had studied the chapter.

5. She had locked the door.

6. The train had left.

7. You had answered the question.

8. The team had practiced enough.

9. My brother had cleaned his room.

10. The students had submitted their work.

Exercise 3 | Make questions

Rewrite each sentence as a question. Example: She had finished the report. → Had she finished the report?

1. They had left early.

2. He had studied the notes.

3. You had seen the message.

4. The teacher had explained the rule.

5. We had visited that museum.

6. She had written the email.

7. The workers had repaired the road.

8. The dog had eaten its food.

9. I had answered correctly.

10. The guests had arrived before noon.

Exercise 4 | Simple past or past perfect?

Circle the correct option.

1. When I arrived, the show _____.

a) started b) had started

2. She _____ the door and walked inside.

a) opened b) had opened

3. They were tired because they _____ all day.
a) worked b) had worked
4. I _____ breakfast before I left for school.
a) ate b) had eaten
5. He _____ his phone on the desk and went out.
a) put b) had put
6. By the time we called, she _____ already left.
a) has b) had
7. We _____ the movie last night.
a) watched b) had watched
8. The students _____ the topic before the test began.
a) reviewed b) had reviewed
9. She _____ her bag and walked to the bus stop.
a) picked up b) had picked up
10. The plane _____ before we reached the airport.
a) took off b) had taken off

Exercise 5 | Correct the mistake

Each sentence contains one past perfect error. Rewrite it correctly.

1. She had finish the test before the bell rang.

2. They had went home before we arrived.

3. He has left before I called.

4. I had ate dinner before the movie.

5. We had saw that place before.

6. The teacher had gave the answer.

7. She had wrote the letter.

8. They had began the meeting early.

9. I had not knew the rule.

10. He had took my pen.

Exercise 6 | Write your own

Complete each sentence with your own ending, using **had + past participle**.

1. Before I went to bed, I had _____

2. By the time the class started, the teacher had

3. When we arrived at the station, the train had

4. Before she moved to Canada, she had _____

5. After they had _____

Remember: **past perfect means past before past.** If two things happened and you need to show which came first, the earlier one takes *had*.

Answer Key

Past Perfect Tense Worksheet | Grammar Flare

Exercise 1

1. **had finished**
2. **had started**
3. **had read**
4. **had forgotten**
5. **had eaten**
6. **had stopped**
7. **had known**
8. **had left**
9. **had taught**
10. **had saved**

Exercise 2

1. He **had not eaten** lunch.
2. They **had not completed** the project.
3. I **had not seen** the email.
4. We **had not studied** the chapter.
5. She **had not locked** the door.
6. The train **had not left**.
7. You **had not answered** the question.
8. The team **had not practiced** enough.
9. My brother **had not cleaned** his room.
10. The students **had not submitted** their work.

hadn't is equally correct in everyday writing.

Exercise 3

1. **Had they left** early?
2. **Had he studied** the notes?
3. **Had you seen** the message?
4. **Had the teacher explained** the rule?
5. **Had we visited** that museum?
6. **Had she written** the email?
7. **Had the workers repaired** the road?
8. **Had the dog eaten** its food?
9. **Had I answered** correctly?
10. **Had the guests arrived** before noon?

Exercise 4

1. **b) had started**

The show began before I got there.

2. **a) opened**

Two actions in sequence, so the simple past is enough.

3. **b) had worked**

The working explains the earlier tiredness.

4. **b) had eaten**

Emphasises that breakfast was finished first.

5. **a) put**

Ordinary sequence, no need to reach backwards.

6. **b) had**

Both actions are in the past, so *had*, never *has*.

7. **a) watched**

One past action on its own.

8. **b) had reviewed**

The reviewing came first.

9. **a) picked up**

Sequence again, so the simple past works.

10. **b) had taken off**

The take-off happened first.

Exercise 5

1. She **had finished** the test before the bell rang.
2. They **had gone** home before we arrived.
3. He **had left** before I called.
4. I **had eaten** dinner before the movie.
5. We **had seen** that place before.
6. The teacher **had given** the answer.
7. She **had written** the letter.
8. They **had begun** the meeting early.
9. I **had not known** the rule.
10. He **had taken** my pen.

Exercise 6

Answers will vary. Any ending works as long as it uses **had + past participle**. Sample answers:

1. Before I went to bed, I had **finished my homework**.
2. By the time the class started, the teacher had **written the topic on the board**.
3. When we arrived at the station, the train had **already left**.
4. Before she moved to Canada, she had **studied English for two years**.
5. After they had **eaten dinner**, they went home.

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