

Past Perfect

Grammar Drill Pack

Focus: Using Past Perfect to describe an action that happened before another past action — five short drills to lock in **Past Perfect**.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

1 · Rules

- Use the Past Perfect (had + past participle) for an action that occurred before another past event.
- Combine the Past Perfect with a past simple verb to show the order of events.
- Use signal words such as 'by the time', 'already', 'before', or 'after' to indicate the earlier action.
- In negative sentences, add 'not' after 'had' (hadn't) before the past participle.

2 · Signal words

by the time

already

before

after

when

once

until

as soon as

Tip: These words often flag **Past Perfect** — spot them, then choose the form.

3 · Gap-fill drill

Write the correct form of **Past Perfect** in each gap.

- She _____ her homework before dinner.
- By the time we arrived, the movie _____.
- He realized that he _____ his keys at home.
- They _____ each other before the conference.
- I didn't know that she _____ to Canada.
- After the storm _____, we went outside.

4 · Error correction

Each sentence has one mistake in Past Perfect. Rewrite it correctly.

1 ~~She finished her homework before dinner.~~

2 ~~By the time we arrived, the movie already started.~~

3 ~~He realized that he left his keys at home.~~

4 ~~They didn't meet each other before the conference.~~

5 ~~I didn't know that she moved to Canada.~~

6 ~~After the storm passed, we went outside.~~

5 · Mini-quiz

Choose the correct option (A–D).

1 Which sentence correctly uses the Past Perfect?

(A) She had finished her homework before dinner.

(B) She finished her homework before dinner.

(C) She has finished her homework before dinner.

(D) She was finishing her homework before dinner.

2 Choose the sentence that shows an action completed before another past action.

(A) By the time we arrived, the movie had already started.

(B) By the time we arrived, the movie already started.

(C) When we arrived, the movie started.

(D) We arrived after the movie started.

3 Select the sentence with the correct Past Perfect form.

(A) He realized that he had left his keys at home.

(B) He realized that he left his keys at home.

(C) He realized that he has left his keys at home.

(D) He realized that he was leaving his keys at home.

4 Which sentence correctly uses a negative Past Perfect?

(A) They hadn't met each other before the conference.

(B) They didn't meet each other before the conference.

(C) They haven't met each other before the conference.

(D) They weren't meeting each other before the conference.

5 Identify the sentence that correctly combines Past Perfect with a reporting verb.

(A) I didn't know that she had moved to Canada.

(B) I didn't know that she moved to Canada.

(C) I don't know that she had moved to Canada.

(D) I didn't know that she has moved to Canada.

6 Which sentence correctly uses Past Perfect after a time clause?

(A) After the storm had passed, we went outside.

(B) After the storm passed, we went outside.

(C) After the storm has passed, we went outside.

(D) After the storm was passing, we went outside.