



PAST PERFECT TENSE

1. The form of the past perfect simple

Had + Verb (in the past participle form. It can be regular or irregular)

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I had worked	I had not worked	Had I worked?
You had worked	You had not worked	Had you worked?
He had worked	He had not worked	Had he worked?
She had worked	She had not worked	Had she worked?
It had worked	It had not worked	Had it worked?
We had worked	We had not worked	Had we worked?
You had worked	You had not worked	Had you worked?
They had worked	They had not worked	Had they worked?

Short answers: Had you worked? Yes, I had./ No, I hadn't.

Translation: Tú habías trabajado/ Tú no habías trabajado/ ¿Habías trabajado?

o Note

I had not worked = I **hadn't** worked

He had worked = He'**d** worked

o Examples

- I had studied extremely hard before the exam was given.
- He had enjoyed colour photography before he tried black-and-white film.
- The Wilsons hadn't saved enough money before the deadline arrived.
- Had you waited for a long time before I arrived? Yes, I had.

- **Past participles**

1. The past participle of **regular verbs** is :

Rule	Examples
Verb + ed	play - played visit - visited finish -finished

2. The past participle (3rd column) of **irregular verbs** can't be predicted (there is no rule). This is a complete list of irregular past participles:

Infinitive	Simple Past Tense	Past Participle
awake	awoke	awoken
be	was, were	been
bear	bore	born
beat	beat	beat
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
bend	bent	bent
beset	beset	beset
bet	bet	bet
bid	bid / bade	bid / bidden
bind	bound	bound
bite	bit	bitten
bleed	bled	bled
blow	blew	blown
break	broke	broken
breed	bred	bred
bring	brought	brought
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast
build	built	built
burn	burned / burnt	burned / burnt
burst	burst	burst
buy	bought	bought
cast	cast	cast

catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
cling	clung	clung
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
creep	crept	crept
cut	cut	cut
deal	dealt	dealt
dig	dug	dug
dive	dived / dove	dived
do	did	done
draw	drew	drawn
dream	dreamed / dreamt	dreamed / dreamt
drive	drove	driven
drink	drank	drunk
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feed	fed	fed
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fit	fit	fit
flee	fled	fled
fling	flung	flung
fly	flew	flown
forbid	forbade	forbidden
forget	forgot	forgotten
forego (forgo)	forewent	foregone
forgive	forgave	forgiven
forsake	forsook	forsaken
freeze	froze	frozen
get	got	gotten
give	gave	given
go	went	gone
grind	ground	ground
grow	grew	grown

hang	hung	hung
hear	heard	heard
hide	hid	hidden
hit	hit	hit
hold	held	held
hurt	hurt	hurt
keep	kept	kept
kneel	knelt	knelt
knit	knit	knit
know	knew	know
lay	laid	laid
lead	led	led
leap	leaped / leapt	leaped / leapt
learn	learned / learnt	learned / learnt
leave	left	left
lend	lent	lent
let	let	let
lie	lay	lain
light	lighted/lit	lighted
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
mean	meant	meant
meet	met	met
misspell	misspelled / misspelt	misspelled / misspelt
mistake	mistook	mistaken
mow	mowed	mowed / mown
overcome	overcame	overcome
overdo	overdid	overdone
overtake	overtook	overtaken
overthrow	overthrew	overthrown
pay	paid	paid
plead	pleaded / pled	pleaded / pled
prove	proved	proved / proven
put	put	put
quit	quit	quit
read	read	read

rid	rid	rid
ride	rode	ridden
ring	rang	rung
rise	rose	risen
run	ran	run
saw	sawed	sawed / sawn
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
seek	sought	sought
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
set	set	set
sew	sewed	sewed / sewn
shake	shook	shaken
shave	shaved	shaved / shaven
shear	sheared / shored	sheared / shorn
shed	shed	shed
shine	shone	shone
shoe	shod	shod
shoot	shot	shot
show	showed	showed / shown
shrink	shrank	shrunk
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sink	sank	sunk
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
slay	slew	slain
slide	slid	slid
sling	slung	slung
slit	slit	slit
smite	smote	smitten
sow	sowed	sowed / sown
speak	spoke	spoken
speed	sped	sped
spend	spent	spent

spill	spilled / spilt	spilled / spilt
spin	spun	spun
spit	spit / spat	spit
split	split	split
spread	spread	spread
spring	sprang / sprung	sprung
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
stick	stuck	stuck
sting	stung	stung
stink	stank	stunk
stride	strode	stridden
strike	struck	struck
string	strung	strung
strive	strove	striven
swear	swore	sworn
sweep	swept	swept
swell	swelled	swelled / swollen
swim	swam	swum
swing	swung	swung
take	took	taken
teach	taught	taught
tear	tore	torn
tell	told	told
think	thought	thought
thrive	thrived / throve	thrived
throw	threw	thrown
thrust	thrust	thrust
tread	trod	trodden
understand	understood	understood
uphold	upheld	upheld
upset	upset	upset
wake	woke	woken
wear	wore	worn
weave	weaved / wove	weaved / woven
wed	wed	wed

weep	wept	wept
wind	wound	wound
win	won	won
withhold	withheld	withheld
withstand	withstood	withstood
wring	wrung	wrung
write	wrote	written

2. Usage of the past perfect simple

To describe an action that has been completed before another action that took place in the past.

Examples:

- President Lincoln **had attended** the theatre regularly before his assassination.
- They **had finished** lunch when I arrived.

3. WORKSHEET

1. Fill in the spaces with the correct affirmative forms of the verbs in brackets in the past perfect simple tense.

- 1) Tonya (work) _____ as a decorator before she opened her shop.
- 2) My daughter and I (enjoy) _____ the ballet so much that we wanted to see it again.
- 3) The power supply (fail) _____ during the night, so the house got cold.
- 4) You (call) _____ earlier in the day, so we knew you were on your way.
- 5) The cat (scratch) _____ a hole in the sofa before its owner noticed.

2. Fill in the gaps with the correct negative forms on the verbs in brackets in the past perfect.

- 1) We (not, stand) _____ in the rain long before the gates were opened.
- 2) Russ and Becca (not, have) _____ much experience with building before they started their house.
- 3) Ivan (not, take) _____ a coat with him; now the temperature was dropping fast.
- 4) Carl (not, sleep) _____ long enough when his mother woke him up.

5) The mechanic (not, fix) _____ the engine yet when we called him last Saturday.

3. Transform these affirmative sentences into questions.

1) Melissa had sold all the tickets for the concert before 10 pm.

_____?

2) Edward had forgiven Elise.

_____?

3) The company had considered moving its plant to Madrid before May.

_____?

4) Lucia had thought about returning to her home in Costa Rica before she found a job in New York.

_____?

4. Circle the correct verb form in each sentence: past simple or past perfect simple?

1) Simon **played / had played** the piano for ages when he **gave / had given** his first concert.

2) I **didn't know / hadn't known** the answer because I **messed / had missed** the lesson.

3) We **arrived / had arrived** ten minutes late, but they already **left / had already left**.

4) She **messed / had missed** the plane because her alarm clock **didn't go off / hadn't gone off**.

5) I **knew / had known** that I **met / had met** her before, but I couldn't remember where.