Past Perfect Worksheet: Had + Past Participle

For English teachers and learners · englishcue.app

NAME

DATE

Remember

Form	Example
had + past participle (all persons)	She had left. They hadn't eaten.
The earlier of two past events	When I got to the station, the train had left.
Signals: by the time, already, before, never ... before	By the time we arrived, they had already gone.
Questions: had + subject + participle	Had you met him before?

Typical mistakes

× Learners often say	✓ Say instead
When I arrived, the train already left.	When I arrived, the train had already left.
I had saw the film before.	I had seen the film before.
She told me she has finished.	She told me she had finished.

1. Complete

Complete with the past perfect of the verb in brackets.

1. When we got home, someone _____ (break) the window.
2. I _____ (never / see) snow before that winter.
3. By the time the police arrived, the thief _____ (escape).
4. She was tired because she _____ (not / sleep) well.
5. _____ you _____ (finish) your report before the meeting?
6. They _____ (already / eat) when we arrived.
7. He didn't recognise me because I _____ (cut) my hair.
8. We _____ (not / book) a table, so we couldn't get in.
9. I realised I _____ (leave) my keys in the office.
10. The film _____ (start) when we sat down.

2. Choose

Past simple or past perfect? Circle the correct option.

1. When I arrived at the party, Tom (left / had left), so I didn't see him.
2. She (opened / had opened) the door and walked in.
3. I was nervous because I (never flew / had never flown) before.
4. After he (had finished / finished) dinner, he washed up.
5. We (met / had met) in 2015 and married in 2018.
6. By the time I woke up, everyone (went / had gone) out.
7. He (had lost / lost) his passport, so he couldn't fly.
8. Yesterday I (saw / had seen) a great film.

3. Correct the mistakes

Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1. When I arrived, the meeting already started.
2. She had went home early.
3. I had visited Paris last year.
4. By the time we got there, the shop has closed.
5. Had you ate before the show?
6. He didn't know her because he never met her before.

Writing

Write about a day when things went wrong (6–7 sentences). Use the past perfect to explain what had happened before.

Speaking

- Tell me about a time you arrived somewhere too late. What had happened?
- Had you ever travelled alone before you were twenty?
- Describe a day when everything went wrong. What had you forgotten to do?
- What had you already learned about English before you started classes with me?

Answer key

1. Complete: 1 had broken · 2 had never seen · 3 had escaped · 4 hadn't slept · 5 Had … finished · 6 had already eaten · 7 had cut · 8 hadn't booked · 9 had left · 10 had started

2. Choose: 1 had left · 2 opened · 3 had never flown · 4 had finished (or finished) · 5 met · 6 had gone · 7 had lost · 8 saw

3. Correct the mistakes: 1 When I arrived, the meeting had already started. · 2 She had gone home early. · 3 I visited Paris last year. · 4 By the time we got there, the shop had closed. · 5 Had you eaten before the show? · 6 He didn't know her because he had never met her before.

Writing, model answer: Last Monday was a disaster. When I got to the station, my train had just left. I took a taxi, but I realised I had left my wallet at home. Luckily, the driver let me pay by phone. When I finally arrived at the office, the meeting had already started. My boss had moved it to nine without telling me.