

Past Perfect



THE FORM

had / hadn't + the past participle

I had done it.

She hadn't done it.

Had they done it?

USAGE

We use the past perfect when we are already talking about the past and we 'go back' to say that something had happened before.

Match the sentence halves using the past simple and past perfect. Use WHEN or AFTER.
e.g. After / when they had done their homework, they could play PC games.

They ate the dinner.

She felt much better.

Jack decided to have a rest.

They went to a pub to celebrate it.

The bank clerk called the police.

I finished reading the magazine.

Lisa tried on five sweaters.

Peter asked for a cup of coffee.

She completely recovered.

They could play PC games.

She finally took the red one.

He finished eating.

They did their homework.

I lent it to Sophie.

Mandy could leave the hospital.

He painted the hall and the kitchen.

Mark cleared the table.

Rita took a hot bath.

They won the match.

The robbers left.

Finish the sentences using the past perfect :

1. Sue didn't pass the exams because...
2. When we got to the party...
3. Mark was broke because...
4. By the time Lara finally got up...
5. I didn't want to see her because....
6. When I called for the job...
7. By the time the film finished...
8. Did you go home after ...?

Answer the questions using the past perfect:

1. Why was she so excited?
2. Why did he feel tired?
3. Why was the fridge empty?
4. Why were you sick?
5. Why wasn't she at the party?
6. What did he learn when he called the office?

Rewrite the sentences using the past simple and past perfect :

1. She soon (realize) that she (spend) all her money.
2. He (be) tired because he (not eat) anything since the morning.
3. When all the guests (leave) I (start) tidying.
4. As soon as Jack (eat) his ice-cream he (go) to buy another one.
5. The police never (find out) where he (hide) the money.
6. We (not recognize) her. She (cut) her hair.
7. She (be) very upset because he (not answer) her e-mails.
8. I (know) my wife for 5 years before we finally (marry) in 2009.
9. The film already (start) when we (arrive).



ANSWER KEY:

1. After/when they had eaten dinner, Mark cleared the table.
2. After/when Rita had taken a hot bath, she felt much better.
3. When/after he had painted the hall and the kitchen, Jack decided to have a rest.
4. After/when they had won the match, they went to a pub to celebrate it.
5. After/when the robbers had left, the bank clerk called the police.
6. After/when I had finished reading the magazine, I lent it to Sophie.
7. After/when Lisa had tried on 5 sweaters, she finally took the red one.
8. After/when he had finished eating, Peter asked for a cup of coffee.
9. After/when she had completely recovered, Mandy could leave the hospital.

1. realized , had spent
2. was, hadn't eaten
3. had left, started
4. had eaten, went
5. found out, had hidden
6. didn't recognize, had cut
7. was, hadn't answered
8. had known, married
9. had started, arrived