



PAST PERFECT

Form: had + past participle.

Use: a **completed action** before something in the past.

- ✓ I hadn't studied French before I moved to Paris.
- ✓ I couldn't find my way because I had lost my map.
- ✓ She had had her washing machine for 10 years before it broke down.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Form: had been + verb + ing

Use: **Duration** before something in the past.

- ✓ We had been waiting at the bus-stop for over half an hour when the bus finally arrived.
- ✓ Janet was tired because she had been correcting exam papers all day.
- ✓ How long had you been studying French before you moved to Paris?

Put the verbs in brackets into the past perfect or past perfect continuous

1. _____ (you/study) French before you _____ (move) to France?
2. How long _____ (you/wait) to get on the bus?
3. I _____ (not have) any money because I _____ (lose) my purse.
4. I _____ (try) to get through to her for months before she finally _____ (answer) my email.
5. I _____ (never/go) to the theatre before last night.
6. James _____ (teach) at the university for more than a year before he _____ (go) to Asia.
7. The old woman _____ (want) to sit down because she _____ (stand) for a long time.
8. They _____ (feel) bad about selling the house because they _____ (own) it for more than forty years.
9. We couldn't get a hotel room anywhere because we _____ (not/book) in advance.
10. We _____ (have) that car for ten years before it _____ (break) down.

Can you answer these questions using the correct tense? Write full sentences.

- a. Had you ever visited the U.S. before your trip in 2006? (Parents in 2003)
- b. How long had you been studying Turkish before you moved to Ankara? (2 years)
- c. How come Brenda knew London so well? (Visit/several times before)
- d. Why were they a bit lost when they first moved to Rome? (not/study/Italian)
- e. Why was John tired? (jog)
- f. How long had they been eating before Carole arrived? (over an hour)
- g. How long had Brian studied Spanish before he moved to Spain? (6 years at school)

KEY



1. Had you studied French before you moved to France?
 2. How long had you been waiting to get on the bus?
 3. I did not have any money because I had lost my purse.
 4. I had been trying to get through to her for months before she finally answered my email.
 5. I had never been to the theatre before last night.
 6. James had been teaching at the university for more than a year before he left for Asia.
 7. The old woman wanted to sit down because she had been standing for a long time.
 8. They felt bad about selling the house because they had owned it for more than forty years.
 9. We couldn't get a hotel room anywhere because we hadn't booked in advance.
 10. We had had that car for ten years before it broke down.
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- a. Had you ever visited the U.S. before your trip in 2006? - I had visited the U.S. with my parents in 2003 before my trip in 2006.
 - b. How long had you been studying Turkish before you moved to Ankara? – I had been studying Turkish for 2 years before I moved to Ankara.
 - c. How come Brenda knew London so well? - Because she had visited it several times before.
 - d. Why were they a bit lost when they first moved to Rome? - Because they hadn't studied Italian.
 - e. Why was John tired? - Because he had been jogging.
 - f. How long had they been eating before Carole arrived? - They had been eating for over an hour.
 - g. How long had Brian studied Spanish before he moved to Spain? - He had studied Spanish for 6 years at school.