

Past perfect

In English The **past perfect** is used to refer to an action that was completed *before* another past action. The past perfect is formed by combining the past tense of the verb **to have** and the **past participle** of the main verb.

Joan asked us to go see a movie with her, but we **had** already **seen** it.

The attendant called Scott and Doreen, but they **had** already **left**.

In the above examples we see that by the time one action happened (*asked, called*), another had already taken place (*had seen, had left*). The word **already** is often used with this tense.

A Circle the past tense of **to have**, and underline each past participle.

1. When we drove up to the farm, we saw that everybody had left.
2. We had bought it only two weeks before.
3. I had lived there when I was a kid, and I was eager to live there again.
4. We had not thought it would be so cheap to buy it, but it was.
5. In truth, I barely recognized it, since it had changed so much.
6. When we went inside, we saw that the owners had forgotten their suitcases.
7. We wanted to call them, but they had not left a forwarding number.
8. At least they had already planted all the crops for the year.

In Spanish The past perfect (**pluscuamperfecto**) is also used to express an action completed before another past action. The past perfect is commonly used with the words **cuando** (*when*), **ya** (*already*), **todavía no** (*not yet*), and **aún no** (*not yet*).

Fuimos a casa a las seis, pero mi madre no **se había ido** al trabajo todavía.

We went home at six, but my mom had not yet left for work.

Llegamos al cine diez minutos tarde, y la película ya **había empezado**.

We got to the theater ten minutes late, and the movie had already started.

The past perfect is formed by combining the imperfect tense of the verb **haber** and the **past participle** of the main verb.

había	habíamos		
habías	habíais	+	past participle
había	habían		

PAST PERFECT

B Circle the form of the verb **haber** and underline the past participle in each sentence.

1. Cuando llegamos al colegio, todos se habían ido ya al partido de fútbol.
2. Yo había comprado las entradas el mes pasado.
3. Había pagado mucho dinero por ellas.
4. Me habían dicho que nos esperarían para salir.
5. Pero para las cuatro ya habían salido.
6. El partido no había empezado todavía.
7. Nos dimos prisa. Cuando llegamos al estadio, ya se habían sentado todos.
8. Pero no todos; nuestros amigos todavía no habían comprado sus refrescos.

C Complete the following sentences expressing what you had already done or learned at each age, using the past perfect tense.

1. Cuando yo tenía tres años, ya había aprendido a andar.
2. Cuando yo tenía seis años, ya _____
3. Cuando yo tenía nueve años, ya _____
4. Cuando yo tenía doce años, ya _____
5. Cuando yo tenía quince años, ya _____

D What happened the other day? Combine these actions into a sentence, by using one verb in the preterite, and the one that logically came before it in the past perfect tense.

1. yo: levantarse / mi padre: salir
Cuando yo me levanté, mi padre ya había salido.
2. yo: ducharme / yo: vestirme

3. mis hermanas y yo: tomar el autobús / mi madre: desayunar

4. mis hermanas: entrar en clase / la profesora: sentarse

5. mis amigos y yo: jugar al básquetbol / yo: estudiar

6. yo: cenar / tú: ir conmigo al cine
