

The past perfect simple is used to refer to a past time which preceded the past time already being referred to.

It is used in combination with other past tenses to clarify the sequence of events in past narrative.

## FORM

HAD ('d) + perfect: I **had finished**

## USE

\* In sentences which have a **when + past simple** clause:

It is used to make it clear that the event in the past perfect came before the event in the past simple: *I got to the station, the train **had left**.*

\* In **when, as soon as, the moment, immediately** clauses

It is used when we need to make it clear that the event in the **when** clause was completed before the event in the past simple started: *When I read the letter, I **had started** to cry.*

\* In **after** clauses it is used to merely emphasize the fact that the event in the **after** clause preceded the other event.: *After we **had passed** the exams, we went out to celebrate.*

\* As the equivalent of the present perfect which looks back from the past: *Ann and Michael **have just got married**; It was June 1991. Ann and Michael **had just got married**.*

\* In reported speech when a statement is in present perfect, use past perfect at reported.

*I've **had** a lovely time.*

*She said she **had had** a lovely time.*

## PRACTICE

Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or past perfect simple.

- A: I'm sorry, we're late. We \_\_\_\_\_ (miss) the train.  
B: How \_\_\_\_\_ (that/happen)?  
A: Well, I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) the times wrong and when we \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the station, the train \_\_\_\_\_ (just leave)
- A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you/have) a good meal at Hilary's?

B: Well no, it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) very embarrassing. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive), we \_\_\_\_\_ (know) immediately that she \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) about the whole thing.

A: So what \_\_\_\_\_ (she/do)?

Well, she \_\_\_\_\_ (pretend) that she \_\_\_\_\_ (not forget) and \_\_\_\_\_ (say) that the meal \_\_\_\_\_ (not be) ready because she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) home from work very late.

3. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) a beautiful morning. It \_\_\_\_\_ (rain) in the night and so the ground \_\_\_\_\_ (be) fresh and clean and it \_\_\_\_\_ (smell) wonderful. None of the Taylor family \_\_\_\_\_ (be) awake though. They \_\_\_\_\_ (all go) to bed very late the night before. Their Australian cousin \_\_\_\_\_ (sit up) talking most of the night. Although it \_\_\_\_\_ (be) now 8 o'clock in the morning. They \_\_\_\_\_ (only be) in bed for about two hours.

## **ANSWER KEY**

1. **A:** I'm sorry, we're late. We **MISSED** (miss) the train.  
**B:** How **DID THAT HAPPEN** (that/happen)?  
**A:** Well, I **GOT** (get) the times wrong and when we **ARRIVED** (arrive) at the station, the train **HAD JUST LEFT** (just leave)
2. **A:** **DID YOU HAVE** (you/have) a good meal at Hilary's?  
**B:** Well no, it **WAS** (be) very embarrassing. When we **ARRIVED** (arrive), we **KNEW** (know) immediately that she **HAD FORGOTTEN** (forget) about the whole thing.  
**A:** So what **DID SHE DO** (she/do)?  
Well, she **PRETEND** (pretend) that she **HAD NOT FORGOTTEN** (not forget) and **SAID** (say) that the meal **WASN'T** (not be) ready because she **HAD GOT** (get) home from work very late.
3. It **WAS** (be) a beautiful morning. It **HAD RAINED** (rain) in the night and so the ground **WAS** (be) fresh and clean and it **SMELT** (smell) wonderful. None of the Taylor family **WERE** (be) awake though. They **HAD ALL GONE** (all go) to bed very late the night before. Their Australian cousin **HAD SAT UP** (sit up) talking most of the night. Although it **WAS** (be) now 8 o'clock in the morning. They **HAD ONLY BEEN** (only be) in bed for about two hours.

**Write down the difference between:**

- A grandfather and a great-grandfather;
- A friend and an acquaintance;
- A colleague and a boss;
- A fiancée and an ex-wife;
- A stepbrother and a half-brother.

**Match the sentences beginnings 1-6 to ending a-f**

- |  |                           |
|--|---------------------------|
| 1. My brother and I have a lot...                | a. in touch by email.     |
| 2. We sometimes argue, but we usually get on...  | b. out with each other.   |
| 3. He puts...                                    | c. quite well.            |
| 4. We've argued but we've never really fallen... | d. touch with him.        |
| 5. We live in different cities but we keep...    | e. in common.             |
| 6. I hope I don't lose...                        | f. up with my bad temper. |

**Use the phrases in exercise 2 to make sentences about a person in your family or a person you now well.**

*I have a lot in common with my mother.*

*I can't put up with my flatmate's mess.*

**What are some common reasons for family disputes? Think of one or two reasons.**

**Listen the summary and extract from White Teeth. Summarise what the extract is about in one sentence.**

**Listen again and decide if the sentences are true (t) or false (f) or No Information (x)**

- 1. Alsana wants her son to stay in England.**
- 2. Samad wants his son to have Bangladeshi education.**
- 3. The son doesn't want to go to Bangladesh.**
- 4. Alsana's punishment has no effect on Samad.**
- 5. Alsana doesn't speak to her husband for eight years.**

**Was Samad wrong to send his son to Bangladesh? Was Alsana right to punish her husband? Think of reasons for and against each decision.**

**Number according you hear in the audio**

\_\_\_\_\_ Soon after heard the question about the remote control, Alsana had indirectly answer: "It is likely to be in the drawer, Samad miah, as it is behind the sofa".

\_\_\_\_\_ Before the Alsana's answer, Samad had questioned her about what time was it.

\_\_\_\_\_ After Alsana had cursed Samad, he hardly knew how to respond yes or no questions;

\_\_\_\_\_ Samad asked if Alsana had seen his slippers.

\_\_\_\_\_ Whatever the question in Lqbal house, Samad had never more heard a straight answer.

\_\_\_\_\_ "Possibly, Samad Miah" Alsana had answer after he asked her.

**Read the sentences about other family situation. Write what you think happened before. Think of reasons. Use the past perfect.**

1. The husband moved out of the family house...
2. The daughter stopped keeping in touch with her mother...
3. The two brothers fell out...
4. The grandmother refused to babysit for the grandchildren...
5. The son's girlfriend didn't answer his calls anymore...

**Listen and repeat the quotes about family life. Pay attention to intonation and weak forms:**

1. You can choose your friends but you can't choose your family.
2. Blood is thicker than water.
3. A son is a son until he takes a wife, a daughter is a daughter all her life.
4. Absence makes the heart grow fonder.
5. Out of sight, out of mind.
6. Like father, like son.

Do you agree with the quotes? Are there similar quotes in your country? Can you explain them in English?