

PAST PERFECT TENSE

The Past Perfect tense in English is composed of two parts: the past tense of the verb to have (*had*) + the *past participle* of the main verb.

had + past participle

+	S + had + past participle +...	☞	She had finished.	had not = hadn't
-	S + had not + past participle +...	☞	She hadn't finished.	
?	Had + S + past participle +...?	☞	Had she finished?	

Use

Action finished before another past action

Action happened before a specific time in the past

Action started in the past and continued up to a given time in the past

Cause and effect (combine with past simple)

Emphasize the result of an activity in the past

Example

☞ Richard *had gone* out when his wife arrived in the office.

☞ Christine *had never been* to an opera before last night.

☞ We *had owned* that car for ten years before it broke down.

☞ I got stuck in traffic because there *had been* an accident.

☞ I *had been* to London twice by the time I got a job in New York.

Time Expressions

already, yet, for, since, just, after, before, until,
the moment that...