

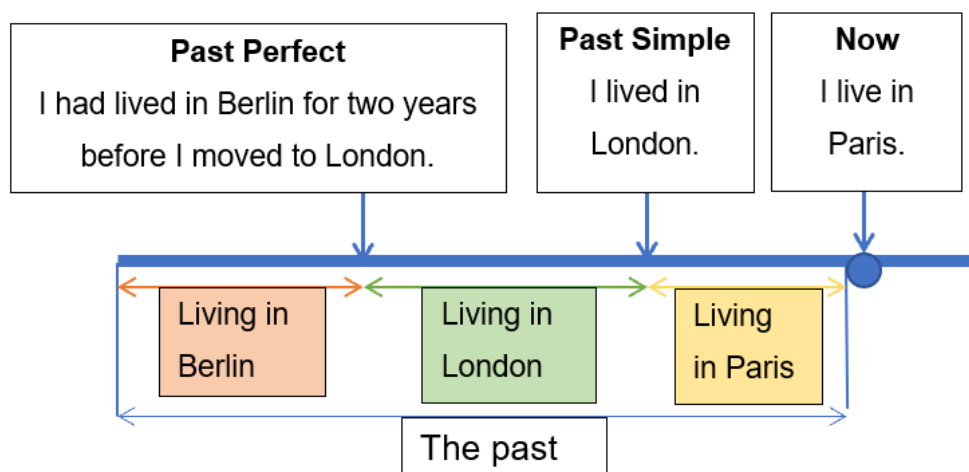
PAST PERFECT TENSE

Main theme addressed	In this lesson, you will learn about using phrasal verbs
Key Goals	<p>Here is an outline of what you will learn today:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grammar structure of the Past Perfect tense 2. How to correctly use the Past Perfect in affirmative sentences 3. How to correctly use the Past Perfect in negative sentences

1. Grammar structure of the Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense is used to speak about a time in the past, before something else happened.

The graphic below explains this visually.



The past perfect sentence in the graphic above is constructed:

subject + had + past participle (+ rest of sentence)

This structure never changes. It remains the same for singular and plural subjects.

Past perfect sentences always use the word 'had' and the past participle of the verb.

2. How to correctly use the Past Perfect in affirmative sentences

In the past perfect tense, the initial statement (I had walked) is usually followed by either a period of time, or a time in the past.

For example:

I had walked for two hours.

He had called at 9 pm.

They had arrived before I did.

When you speak about the second period of time (living in London), after the first period of time in the past (living in Berlin), you always use the past simple tense.

These two periods of time can be in any order, as long as the structure remains the same.

I had lived in Berlin for two years before I moved to London.

←—————→ ←—————→

Past Perfect Tense Past Simple Tense

Before I moved to London, I had lived in Berlin for two years.

←—————→ ←—————→

Past Simple Tense Past Perfect Tense

If you speak about two different moments in the past, you must always use the past perfect, and the past simple together.



The examples below show the **past perfect** and the **present simple** used in this way.

“**I had walked for two hours, when I found the shop**”

or “**I found the shop after I had walked for two hours**”

“**He had called at 9pm, and I slept at 10pm**”

or “**I slept at 10pm, after he had called at 9pm**”

“**They had arrived before I did**”

or “**I arrived after they had arrived**”

Exercise:

Look at the actions and events below.

Form a past perfect sentence with them.

1. Fred dropped the drink. Helga cleaned it up.

_____.

2. David arrived at 9 pm. Colin arrived at 8 pm.

_____.

3. Emma left work at 4.50 pm. Michael left work at 4.55 pm.

_____.

4. Joe woke up at 7 am, and ate breakfast at 7.30 am.

_____.

5. Caroline got married in 1975. Jim got married 5 years later.

_____.

3. How to correctly use the Past Perfect in negative sentences

The past perfect sentence in the graphic above is constructed:

subject + had + NOT + past participle (+ rest of sentence)

Example:

He had not known him before the accident happen.

In the past perfect tense, the negative sentence is formed by adding 'NOT' after the auxiliary verb 'had'.

This structure never changes. It remains the same for singular and plural subjects.

Past perfect sentences always use the words 'had not', and the past participle, either regular or irregular of the verb.

'Had not' is often abbreviated to 'hadn't' as the 'o' is contracted.

For example:

I had NOT walked for two hours.

He had NOT called by 9pm.

They had NOT arrived when I did.

Exercise:

Look at the actions and events below.

Form negative past perfect sentences with them.

1. David arrived at 9 pm. Colin arrived at 8 pm.

_____.

2. Emma left work at 4.50 pm. Michael left work at 4.55 pm.

_____.

3. Joe wakes up at 7 am, and eats breakfast at 7.30 am.

_____.

Learn More

http://guidetogrammar.org/grammar/tenses/past_perfect.htm

<https://www.eslbase.com/grammar/past-perfect>

<https://www.englishtenses.com/tenses/past-perfect>