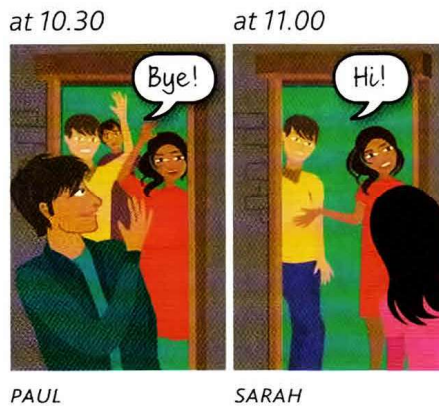


# Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

**Had gone** is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	<b>had</b>	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	<b>gone</b> <b>seen</b> <b>finished</b> etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had** + *past participle* (**gone/seen/finished** etc.).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had ...**):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

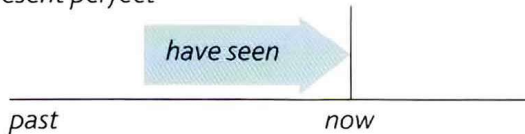
Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.  
or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

B

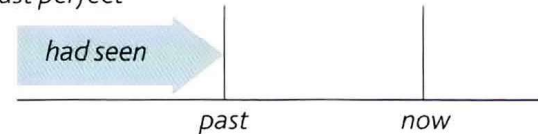
Compare the *present perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

*Present perfect*



- Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

*Past perfect*



- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple* (**left, was** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had left, had been** etc.):

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned.  
She **was** at her mother's house.

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned.  
She **had been** at her mother's house.

## Exercises

**15.1** Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.  
(she / go / out) *She had gone out.*
- You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.  
(it / change / a lot) .....
- I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.  
(she / arrange / to do something else) .....
- You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.  
(the film / already / start) .....
- It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.  
(I / not / see / him for five years) .....
- I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.  
(she / just / have / breakfast) .....

**15.2** For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.  
(fly) *He'd never flown before.*
- Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.  
(hear) I ..... before.
- Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.  
(play) He .....
- Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.  
(be there) We .....

**15.3** Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

- |                                                                                                                                                   |   |                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(a) Somebody broke into the office during the night.</p> <p>(b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u></p> <p>(c) We called the police.</p> | } | <p>We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So .....</p> <p>..... the police.</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- |                                                                                                                |   |                                                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(a) Laura went out this morning.</p> <p>(b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u></p> <p>(c) There was no answer.</p> | } | <p>I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but ..... no answer. .... out.</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- |                                                                                                                                 |   |                                                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago.</p> <p>(b) <u>I met him the same day.</u></p> <p>(c) He looked very well.</p> | } | <p>I met Jim a few days ago. .... just ..... holiday. .... very well.</p> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- |                                                                                                                                                                               |   |                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>(a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails.</p> <p>(b) She never replied to them.</p> <p>(c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u></p> <p>(d) He was very surprised.</p> | } | <p>Yesterday Kevin ..... from Sally. .... very surprised. .... lots of emails, but .....</p> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**15.4** Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he had gone (go) home.'
- I felt very tired when I got home, so I ..... (go) straight to bed.
- The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody ..... (go) to bed.
- Sorry I'm late. The car ..... (break) down on my way here.
- We were driving along the road when we ..... (see) a car which ..... (break) down, so we ..... (stop) to help.