Past Perfect

• The Past Perfect Formula

The formula for the past perfect tense is pretty simple: **had** + **past participle**. Also, there is the continuous form of this tense whose formula is: **had + been + ing form**. It doesn't matter if the subject of your sentence is singular or plural, either way, the formula doesn't change.

• Function

- For an action was completed at some point in the past before something else happened. For example: *You had studied English before you moved to New York.*
- For something that started in the past and continued up to a given time in the past. For example: *She didn't want to move. She had lived in Liverpool all her life.* In such cases, we normally use the past perfect continuous. For example: *She didn't want to move. She had been living in Liverpool all her life.*
- For something we had done several times up to a point in the past. For example: *He had met the president three times before he went to the war.*
- When we're reporting our experience up to a certain point in the past. For example: *My eighteenth birthday was the best day I had ever had.*
- For something that happened in the past, and its effects were important later on, at another point in the past. For example: *I couldn't get in the house. I had lost my keys.*

• How to make the Past Perfect Negative

Making a negative past perfect construction is easy! Just insert **not** after **had**. For example: *We had not eaten breakfast before we got out.*

• How to Ask a Question

The formula for asking a question in the past perfect tense is **had** + **subject** + **past participle**. For example: *Had you eaten breakfast before you got out?*

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