

Pre-Intermediate 3
Unit 6: Grammar
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The Past Perfect Simple

Subject + had(n't) + Past Participle + ...

Examples:

He **had studied** for 3 hours.

They **hadn't bought** the factory yet.

The Use of the Past Perfect Tense

✚ **An Action Happening before Another Action in the Past**

I had brushed my teeth before I went to bed.

After I had brushed my teeth, I went to bed.

Mr. Williams had sold his BMW before he bought a Porsche.

After Mr. Williams had sold his BMW, he bought a Porsche.

✚ **An Action Happening before a Particular Time in the Past**

Sue had cooked the dinner by 8:00 p.m.

by = before

The engineers had built the bridge before the arrival of winter.

The Past Perfect Progressive

Progressive = Continuous

Subject + had(n't) + been + Verb+ing + ...

Examples:

He had been studying for 3 hours.

They hadn't been wasting their time.

They had been learning new things.

Point:

The past perfect simple and the past perfect progressive are two verb tenses that are used to talk about actions or events that happened before another point in the past. **The main difference between them is the focus on the result or the duration of the action.**

We use the past perfect simple to emphasize the result of a completed action that happened before another past action or situation. For example:

She had finished her homework before she went to bed.

(The result is that her homework was done.)

We use the past perfect progressive to emphasize the duration of a continuous action that was in progress before another past action or situation. For example:

She had been studying for three hours before she took a break.

(The duration is three hours.)

Point:

Some verbs, such as *know*, *like* and *understand*, are not usually used in the progressive form. We use the past perfect simple with these verbs. For example:

I had known him for a long time before we became friends.

(Not: I had been knowing him ...)

Point:

We also use the past perfect simple with actions that are completed at a single point in time, such as *start* or *stop*. For example:

They had started the meeting when I arrived.

(Not: They had been starting the meeting ...)

Source:

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