



PAST PERFECT

LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

In this video students will gain a greater understanding of the past perfect tense and its practical use when constructing sentences.

The past perfect is used to describe two past actions. One action happens before the other in the same sentence. The actions are **not** related to each other. This tense is not common but is used and so it's important to know how and when to use is. In a past perfect sentence the first verb (further back in time) is in the past perfect tense and the second verb (most recent) is in the simple past tense.

See diagram below:

Past Perfect	
Structure	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>8pm</p> <p>1</p> <p>X</p> <p>My wife ate her dinner</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>10pm</p> <p>2</p> <p>X</p> <p>I arrived home</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Present</p> <p> </p> </div> </div> <p style="color: red; font-size: small;">Example: My wife "had eaten" her dinner before I arrived home.</p>
How It's Used	Had plus (+) a past participle. For example: Had eaten, Had read.
The Difference	One past action happens before another past action and are unrelated.

Here the example is: My wife **HAD EATEN** her dinner before I arrived home. "Had" is the past of "have" and "eaten" is the past participle of the verb to eat.

Eat – Ate – Eaten.

Practice examples 2

Which of these sentences are "past perfect"?

1. Steve had run in many marathons by the time he wa 40 years old.
2. John went to the cinema last night.
3. Bill has played golf for over twenty years.
4. Did you play football last Saturday?
5. John and Bill have played football together for the last five years.

6. Renata had lived in France for five years when I met her.

The answers to these questions can be found in the downloadable document "Answers to questions"