

What is Past Perfect for Prior Events?

Worksheet

Past perfect for prior events shows an action finished before another past event. Form: had + past participle. Example: 'I had arrived before the meeting started.'

Questions

1. Choose past perfect sentence.
A) I left before he arrived.
B) I had left before he arrived.
C) I have left before he arrived.
D) I was leaving before he arrived.
2. Complete: By the time I woke up, he _____.
A) leaves
B) had left
C) was leaving
D) leaves
3. What does past perfect show?
A) An action happening right now.
B) A finished action at a specific time.
C) An action completed before another past event.
D) An ongoing action in the past.
4. Negative: I hadn't eaten before the meeting.
A) I didn't eat during the meeting.
B) I ate before the meeting.
C) I was not eating before the meeting.
D) I didn't eat before the meeting.
5. Write: I had finished my homework before my friend arrived.
6. Write: She had left the office when the call came in.
7. Write: They had already eaten by the time we got there.
8. Define: What is past perfect for prior events?
9. Define: Example: I had left before he arrived.
10. Define: Why use past perfect?

Answer Key

1. B) I had left before he arrived. — Past perfect = had + past participle. Shows action before another past event.
2. B) had left — First action (leaving) = past perfect 'had left.'
3. C) An action completed before another past event. — Past perfect emphasizes the sequence — which past action came first.
4. D) I didn't eat before the meeting. — hadn't + past participle = the earlier action wasn't done.
5. Subject: I Past perfect: had finished (earlier) Simple past: arrived (later) Meaning: First I finished, then friend arrived
6. Subject: She Past perfect: had left (earlier) Simple past: came in (later) Sequence: She left first, then call arrived
7. Subject: They Past perfect: had eaten (earlier) Simple past: got (later) Meaning: Eating was finished before our arrival
8. An action completed before another past action: had + past participle. Shows sequence.
9. Leaving happened first (past perfect), arriving happened second (simple past).
10. To clarify which of two past actions happened first — tells a clear story.

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