

What is Past Perfect Simple?

Worksheet

Past perfect simple is formed with 'had' + past participle and shows which action happened earlier in the past. Example: 'She had finished her homework before dinner arrived.'

Had + (past participle)

Had = Auxiliary verb (past tense of have)

past participle = Verb form (gone, done, eaten, etc.)

Questions

1. Choose the correct past perfect simple form.
A) She have gone
B) She had gone
C) She was gone
D) She go
2. Which sentence uses past perfect correctly?
A) He took the exam after he studied.
B) He had taken the exam before he studied.
C) He had studied before he took the exam.
D) He studies before he took the exam.
3. Fill in the blank: 'By the time I arrived, they ___ home.'
A) went
B) had gone
C) were going
D) have gone
4. What does past perfect simple clarify?
A) Actions happening now
B) Which past action happened first
C) Future plans
D) Ongoing past actions
5. Write a sentence showing which action happened first: 'She left for work' and 'I called her.'
6. Combine: 'They arrived at the party' (8 PM) and 'I finished cooking' (7:30 PM). Show the order.
7. Write a sentence with two past actions: 'He studied for hours' then 'He took the exam.'
8. Define: What is past perfect simple?
9. Define: How do you form past perfect simple?
10. Define: Why use past perfect instead of simple past?

Answer Key

1. B) She had gone — 'Had' + past participle is the correct form: 'had gone'.
2. C) He had studied before he took the exam. — 'Had studied' (earlier action) + 'took' (later action) shows correct sequence.
3. B) had gone — 'Had gone' shows the action (going home) happened before arrival (Simple Past).
4. B) Which past action happened first — It clarifies the order of two past events.
5. First action (earlier): She left for work. Second action (later): I called her. Past Perfect: 'I didn't know she had left for work when I called her.' Or: 'When I called her, she had already left for work.'
6. First action: I finished cooking (7:30 PM) — Past Perfect. Second action: They arrived (8 PM) — Simple Past. Sentence: 'By the time they arrived, I had already finished cooking.'
7. First: He studied (Past Perfect: had studied). Second: He took (Simple Past: took). Sentence: 'He had studied for hours before he took the exam.'
8. A tense that shows which of two past actions happened first, using 'had' + past participle.
9. 'Had' + past participle. Example: 'had gone', 'had eaten', 'had seen'.
10. To clarify the sequence of two past events and show which happened earlier.

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