

Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect refers to an event that was completed at some point in the past before something else happened.

It is formed by combining the auxiliary verb *had* with the past participle of the main verb.

Form of the past perfect simple:

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I had worked.	I had not worked.	Had I worked?
You had worked.	You had not worked.	Had you worked?

NOTE:

I had not worked = I hadn't worked

I had worked = I'd worked

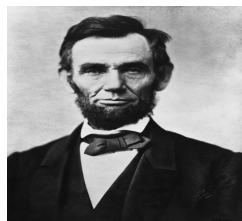
Use of the past perfect simple:



Use the past perfect tense to show an action that was completed prior to another action that took place in the past.

Examples:

- He **had learned** Spanish before he went to Spain.
- President Lincoln **had attended** the theater before his assassination in 1865.



Past Perfect Tense

- They had had lunch when I arrived.
- She passed the exam because she had worked very hard.



PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSE

The past perfect progressive refers to the duration of an event taking place before a certain time in the past.

Form of the past perfect progressive:

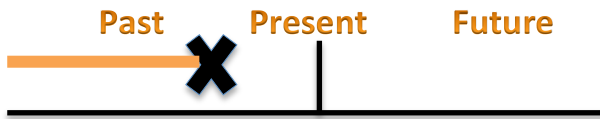
had	been	verb +ing
Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I had been working.	I had not been working.	Had I been working?
You had been working.	You had not been working.	Had you been working?

Examples:

- You had been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- Had you been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived?
- You had not been waiting there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.

Past Perfect Tense

Use of the past perfect progressive:



1. We use the past perfect progressive to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action stopped it.

Example:



We had been playing soccer when the accident occurred.

2. We use the past perfect progressive to show that something started in the past and continued up until another time in the past. In this case we use expressions of duration such as:

- for an hour
- for three years

Example:

I had been living in that small town for three years before I moved to New York.

3. We use the Past Perfect progressive before another action in the past to show cause and effect.

Example:

I was so tired. I had been revising my lessons for hours.