

Le past perfect (I had played)

Le *past perfect* (parfois appelé *pluperfect*) est utilisé lorsque l'on veut parler de deux événements passés successifs, c'est-à-dire pour parler d'une action qui s'est déroulée avant une autre action passée.

Pour la traduction en français, on peut dire que c'est l'équivalent du plus que parfait (ex: '*Elle avait étudié...*' '*Il était déjà parti...*').

1/ Formation

sujet + had (have au past simple) + participe passé (worked, been, gone...)

	Affirmative	Négative	Question
I / you / we / they	I had played	I had not (hadn't) played	Had I played ?
he / she / it	He had played	He had not (hadn't) played	Had he played ?

- (+) *She had studied Japanese before she moved to Tokyo.*
- (?) *Had she studied Japanese before she moved to Tokyo ?*
- (-) *She had **not** studied Japanese before she moved to Tokyo.*

2/ Utilisation

*** Lorsque deux actions ont eu lieu à des moments différents dans le passé**

On emploie le *past perfect* pour parler de l'action qui se passe en premier, et le *past simple* (= preterit) pour la deuxième.

- *The bus **had already left** when Tom **arrived** at the bus stop.*
- *We **watched** a horror movie after the kids **had gone** to bed.*
- *By the time Tina **finished** shopping, John **had been** at the bar for one hour.*
- *I **had never eaten** such a good sushi before I **went** to Japan.*
- *I **did not have** any money because I **had lost** my wallet.*
- *Barbara **knew** Sydney well because she **had visited** the city many times.*
- ***Had** Tom **studied** english before he **moved** to the USA ?*
- *He **was** not able to get a ticket for the show because he **hadn't booked** in advance.*
- *She **checked** with the post office and they still **hadn't received** her package.*
- *I **had eaten** dinner before they **arrived**.*

*** Pour exprimer un passé hypothétique, avec if (pour parler de choses qui auraient pu arriver)**

- *If John **had been** able to drive a car, he **would have gone** home earlier.*
- *If I **hadn't drunk** so much coffee, I **would have slept** last night.*

*** Pour exprimer le regret (avec 'wish' ou 'If only')**

- *If only I **had invited** her to the cinema.*
- *If I **had known**, I **wouldn't have come**.*
- *I wish he **hadn't failed** his driving exam.*
- *He wishes he **hadn't bought** that car.*
- *She wishes she **had stayed** in Miami longer.*
- *I wish I **had done** scuba diving when I went to Indonesia.*

Pour le discours indirect, quand on veut raconter ce que quelqu'un a dit, pensé ou cru (souvent avec les verbes said, told, thought, explained, asked, wondered, believed...)

- *'I have seen...' => He said he had seen...*
- *'I lost my wallet' => She said she had lost her wallet.*
- *She told us that the bus had left.*
- *I thought we had already decided to go to Paris this summer.*

- *He explained that he had locked the window because of the thieves.*
- *I wondered if she had seen this movie before.*
- *I asked him why he had bought this house.*
- *They told me they had already paid the bill.*

3/ Notes

Past perfect + just

On utilise le past perfect avec 'just' pour dire que quelque chose vient juste d'arriver récemment:

- *The train had just left when we arrived at the station.*
- *She had just left the room when she heard a noise.*
- *He had just washed the car when it started to rain.*

Avec 'when':

- *When you were born, the internet hadn't already been created.*
- *When I finished high school, I hadn't learnt to drive a car yet.*
- *When I went to the bar, they had already been drinking a lot.*

Avec 'before' / 'after':

Si l'action au past perfect s'est passée à un moment spécifique et que 'before' ou 'after' sont utilisés dans la phrase, on peut le remplacer par le past simple.

- *He had visited Melbourne once in 2011 before he moved there in 2013.*
- *= He visited Melbourne once in 2011 before he moved there in 2013.*

MAIS si le past perfect ne correspond pas à une action passée à un moment spécifique, on ne peut pas utiliser le past simple:

- *He never saw a kangaroo before he moved to Australia. FAUX*
- *He had never seen a kangaroo before he moved to Australia. OK*

Had + had

- *We had had that car for two years before it broke down.*
- *I wish I had had more girlfriends when I was young.*

La voix active / passive:

- *Nathan had created many websites before he started his business. (Active)*
- *Many websites had been created by Nathan before he started his business. (Passive)*

Quelques mots utilisés souvent avec le past perfect:

already, just, before, when, by the time, once, twice, three times...