

B2

TENSES

≈ 27 MIN

Past Perfect – *practice on paper*

You can order past events; now reinforce past-before-past with fresh retrospectives and handovers.

The **past perfect** (had + past participle) marks the earlier of two past events; use the **past simple** for one finished time with no second past anchor.

NAME

DATE

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING



2 · FILL-IN



3 · CORRECT



4 · WRITE



BRICK 1 · SORT BY TIME RELATIONSHIP · APPROX. 4 MIN



Sort each context. Left: an **earlier completed step** before a past anchor. Right: a **single or later event** in the past simple.

inventory complete before auditors entered lease signed on 14 April

draft ready by 3 p.m. review support call made yesterday

no client contact before negotiations department moved in 2022

slides ready when Marta opened the meeting train departed at 07:10

security check complete before webinar manager ended session at noon

PAST PERFECT: COMPLETED EARLIER	PAST SIMPLE: SINGLE OR LATER EVENT

BRICK 2 · COMPLETE WITH THE RIGHT PAST FORM · APPROX. 6 MIN



Put the verb in brackets into the **past perfect** or **past simple**. First identify a later past anchor, if there is one.

- At yesterday's opening, technicians _____ already ___ (test) every microphone.
- Finance _____ (publish) the figures on Monday.
- When Mei joined, clients _____ already ___ (receive) the offer.
- Our courier _____ (collect) samples yesterday at 4 p.m.
- At yesterday's dispatch, the supplier _____ still ___ (not confirm) quantities.
- At yesterday's review, analysts _____ already ___ (finish) the forecast.
- In 2024, Luis _____ (present) the prototype.
- By 6 p.m., I _____ just ___ (upload) the files.

YOUR BUILD

1 · SORTING

2 · FILL-IN

3 · CORRECT

4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN



Each sentence contains exactly one mistake with tense, auxiliary, or participle. Underline it and write the complete sentence correctly.

01 Nora had emailed figures last Tuesday.

.....

02 Before the interview, the candidate was already arrived.

.....

03 By last Friday's deadline, we have completed the form.

.....

04 Engineers had fix the fault before production resumed.

.....

05 He hadn't wrote the summary before the review.

.....

06 Did they had sent invitations before registration closed?

.....

BRICK 4 · WRITE A CLEAR RETROSPECTIVE · APPROX. 8 MIN



Write your own English sentences for each prompt. Use the **past perfect** only for the earlier step and the **past simple** for the later anchor or one finished time.

01 Retrospective: name the meeting start and two earlier completed tasks.

.....

02 Handover: give the date and one preparation completed by then.

.....

03 Delay: use because for an earlier reason and later consequence.

.....

04 Minimal pair: use yesterday, then a later clock-time boundary.

.....

MINI-CHECK – CAN I DO THIS YET?

- ☐ I form past perfect with had + past participle.
- ☐ I find a later past anchor before using past perfect.
- ☐ With last Tuesday, I choose past simple.
- ☐ After after/before, I check whether the sequence is clear.

Unsure? Draw two time points per sentence and try again.



Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

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|---|--|
| <p>01 Past Perfect: inventory complete before auditors entered
<i>Past perfect: before marks the earlier completion.</i></p> <p>02 Simple Past: lease signed on 14 April
<i>Past simple: 14 April is finished time.</i></p> <p>03 Past Perfect: draft ready by 3 p.m. review
<i>Past perfect: by 3 p.m. sets the boundary.</i></p> <p>04 Simple Past: support call made yesterday
<i>Past simple: yesterday marks finished time.</i></p> <p>05 Past Perfect: no client contact before negotiations
<i>Past perfect: before negotiations marks the earlier state.</i></p> | <p>06 Simple Past: department moved in 2022
<i>Past simple: 2022 is finished time.</i></p> <p>07 Past Perfect: slides ready when Marta opened the meeting
<i>Past perfect: when Marta opened sets the later point.</i></p> <p>08 Simple Past: train departed at 07:10
<i>Past simple: 07:10 dates the event.</i></p> <p>09 Past Perfect: security check complete before webinar
<i>Past perfect: before webinar marks earlier completion.</i></p> <p>10 Simple Past: manager ended session at noon
<i>Past simple: at noon dates the event.</i></p> |
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BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

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|---|---|
| <p>01 At yesterday's opening, technicians had already tested every microphone.
<i>Past perfect: yesterday's opening is the later past anchor.</i></p> <p>02 Finance published the figures on Monday.
<i>Past simple: Monday is finished time.</i></p> <p>03 When Mei joined, clients had already received the offer.
<i>Past perfect: when Mei joined sets the anchor.</i></p> <p>04 Our courier collected samples yesterday at 4 p.m.
<i>Past simple: yesterday at 4 p.m. is finished.</i></p> | <p>05 At yesterday's dispatch, the supplier had still not confirmed quantities.
<i>Past perfect: yesterday's dispatch is the later past anchor.</i></p> <p>06 At yesterday's review, analysts had already finished the forecast.
<i>Past perfect: yesterday's review is the later past anchor.</i></p> <p>07 In 2024, Luis presented the prototype.
<i>Past simple: 2024 is finished time.</i></p> <p>08 By 6 p.m., I had just uploaded the files.
<i>Past perfect: by 6 p.m. sets the boundary.</i></p> |
|---|---|

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>01 Nora emailed figures last Tuesday.
<i>Past simple: last Tuesday is finished time.</i></p> <p>02 Before the interview, the candidate had already arrived.
<i>Auxiliary rule: past perfect uses had, not was.</i></p> <p>03 By last Friday's deadline, we had completed the form.
<i>Past perfect: last Friday makes the deadline past.</i></p> | <p>04 Engineers had fixed the fault before production resumed.
<i>Participle rule: had takes fixed.</i></p> <p>05 He hadn't written the summary before the review.
<i>Participle rule: hadn't takes written.</i></p> <p>06 Had they sent invitations before registration closed?
<i>Question rule: use had first, not did.</i></p> |
|--|---|

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Answers vary; each past perfect needs a later past anchor.

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|--|--|
| <p>01 "When the review began, we had checked totals and had prepared options."
<i>Past perfect: both tasks precede the review.</i></p> <p>02 "I transferred ownership Friday; earlier, I had documented open issues."
<i>Contrast: past-simple date, past-perfect preparation.</i></p> | <p>03 "Because the courier hadn't collected the parcel, storage kept it."
<i>Past perfect: because gives the earlier reason.</i></p> <p>04 "Eva sent one invoice yesterday. By 2 p.m., she had sent three."
<i>Contrast: yesterday = past simple; by 2 = past perfect.</i></p> |
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NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PREREQUISITE

Past Simple

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/past-simple

PREREQUISITE

Present Perfect

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englisch-lehrer.com/berlin

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CONTACT

+49 511 4739339
james@englisch-lehrer.com

