Lesson 2



Past Perfect

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Learn English Differently

Meaning

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Function

Tense

Use

Use the past perfect tense for three reasons:

- To express a finished action that happened in the past followed by a second action.
- To express an action that continued to happen in the past until another action took place.
- To express unrealistic or imaginary actions (Conditional; type 3).

Rule:

Past perfect tense =

'To have' in the simple past tense + the past participle of the verb.

had + past participle.

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Application:

- Let's say you have the auxiliaries to be and to have to put in the past perfect:

  According to the rule:

  To have → had + had = I had had.

  To be → had + been = I had been.

Well done! ✓

Now, let's see how to employ what we've learnt.

Examples

1. I **had been** awake waiting **until** my mother came home.
2. She **had been** sleeping **when** her phone rang and woke her up.
3. I ran to school **as soon as** I **had finished** my breakfast.
4. Her mother cleaned the dishes **after** she **had finished** eating.

Remarks

✓ There is an indicator that will help you recognize the past perfect:

- **Connectors**: until, when, as soon as, after, before…
- **Context**: try to identify the action that happened and finished first/ or the action that would normally take longer**.**

Challenge

Try to put the following verbs in the past perfect:

Like/ drink/ build/ please/ eat/ follow/ found/ develop/ read/ put/ cast/ broadcast/ play/ pay/ bring/ buy/ seek/.

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