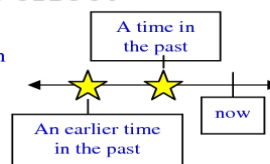


The Past Tense – Past Perfect

There are three aspects of the present tense:

- 1) Simple past
- 2) Past progressive
- 3) **Past perfect (simple and progressive)**

★ = action



The **past perfect (simple) tense** is used to describe an action that has been completed *before* another past action. It is also used to describe an action that happened in the distant past (when it is understood that other actions have happened since that action).

- Use the helping verb “**has**” before a verb in past perfect simple tense to describe all subjects (**I, we, you, they, he, she, it**).

[subject] **[had]** [past participle]

Example: It had rained a lot before she came to town.

Example: I had studied very hard for the exams.

- Use the helping verb “**been**” after “**had**” when using the verb “**to be**” in the past perfect simple tense.

[subject] **[had]** **[been]** [object clause]

Example: She had been late to class several times before she got detention.

Example: His family had been nice in the past.

Directions: Complete the following sentences in the past perfect simple tense.

- 1) She _____ (to write) six letters before she got a response.
- 2) It _____ always _____ (to snow) here before 1978.
- 3) Dan _____ (to be) sick for three days before he got better.
- 4) Li and Susan _____ (to try) four times before they gave up.
- 5) My father’s old car _____ (to run) very well before he sold it.
- 6) We _____ not _____ (to take) the test before.
- 7) My uncle _____ (to visit) China several times in the past, so this visit was nothing new.
- 8) Our father _____ never _____ (to drive) to California.
- 9) I _____ (to speak) to the president twice before, so I was not that nervous.
- 10) The old man _____ occasionally _____ (to need) help crossing the street.

Directions: Put the following sentences in past perfect simple tense.

- 1) I do the laundry.
