

# UNIT 22 Past perfect (I had done)

a) Study this example situation:

<p>At 10.30 Bye!</p> <p>Half an hour later</p> <p>Tom</p> <p>ME</p>	<p>I went to a party last week. Tom went to the party too. Tom went home at 10.30. So, when I arrived at 11 o'clock, Tom wasn't there.</p> <p>When I arrived at the party, Tom wasn't there. He <b>had gone</b> home.</p> <p>This is the <i>past perfect (simple)</i> tense:</p> <p>I/he/she (etc.) <b>had</b> (= I'd/he'd/she'd etc.) <b>gone</b>          I/he/she (etc.) <b>hadn't gone</b>          had you/he/she (etc.) <b>gone?</b></p>
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We form the past perfect with **had** + the *past participle* (*gone/opened/written* etc.). For irregular past participles see Appendix 2.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- I **arrived** at the party.

We use the past perfect to say that something had already happened before this time:

- **When I arrived** at the party, Tom **had already gone** home.

Here are some more examples:

- When I got home, I found that someone **had broken** into my flat and **had stolen** my fur coat.
- George didn't want to come to the cinema with us because he **had already seen** the film twice.
- It was my first time in an aeroplane. I was very nervous because I **hadn't flown** before.

b) The past perfect (**I had done**) is the past of the present perfect (**I have done**). Compare these situations:

Present	Past
I'm not hungry. I've just <b>had</b> lunch. The house is dirty. We <b>haven't cleaned</b> it for weeks.	I <b>wasn't</b> hungry. I'd just <b>had</b> lunch. The house <b>was</b> dirty. We <b>hadn't cleaned</b> it for weeks.

c) Compare the past perfect (**I had done**) and the past simple (**I did**):

- 'Was Tom there when you arrived?' 'No, he **had already gone** home.'
- but:* 'Was Tom there when you arrived?' 'Yes, but he **went home** soon afterwards.'
- Ann **wasn't** in when I **phoned** her. She **was** in London.
- but:* Ann **had just got** home when I **phoned** her. She **had been** in London.

For the past perfect continuous see Unit 23.

## UNIT 22 Exercises

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**22.1** Complete these sentences using the verbs in brackets. You went back to your home town after many years and you found that many things were different.

Example: Most of my friends were no longer there. They ..... **had left** ..... (leave).

- 1 My best friend, Kevin, was no longer there. He ..... (go) away.
  - 2 The local cinema was no longer open. It ..... (close) down.
  - 3 Mr Johnson was no longer alive. He ..... (die).
  - 4 I didn't recognise Mrs Johnson. She ..... (change) a lot.
  - 5 Bill no longer had his car. He ..... (sell) it.
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**22.2** Complete these sentences as in the example. Use the verb in brackets.

Example: Mr and Mrs Davis were in an aeroplane. They were very nervous as the plane took off because they (fly) **had never flown before**.

- 1 The woman was a complete stranger to me. (see) I ..... before.
  - 2 Margaret was late for work. Her boss was very surprised. (be / late) She .....
  - 3 Jane played tennis yesterday – at least she tried to play tennis. She wasn't very good at it because she (play) .....
  - 4 It was Keith's first driving lesson. He was very nervous and didn't know what to do. (drive) He .....
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**22.3** Now you have to make sentences using the words in brackets.

Example: I wasn't hungry. (I / just / have / lunch) I **had just had lunch**.

- 1 Tom wasn't at home when I arrived. (he / just / go / out) .....
  - 2 We arrived at the cinema late. (the film / already / begin) .....
  - 3 They weren't eating when I went to see them. (they / just / finish / their dinner) .....
  - 4 I invited Ann to dinner last night but she couldn't come. (she / already / arrange / to do something else) .....
  - 5 I was very pleased to see Nora again after such a long time. (I / not / see / her for five years) .....
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**22.4** Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (I had done) or past simple (I did).

Examples: 'Was Tom there when you arrived?' 'No, he ..... **had gone** ..... (go) home.'

'Was Tom there when you arrived?' 'Yes, but he ..... **went** ..... (go) home soon afterwards.'

- 1 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody ..... (go) to bed.
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I ..... (go) straight to bed.
- 3 Sorry I'm late. The car ..... (break) down on my way here.
- 4 There was a car by the side of the road. It ..... (break) down and the driver was trying to repair it. So we ..... (stop) to see if we could help.