

The Past Perfect or The Past Simple Exercise

THE PAST PERFECT		
SUBJECT + HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE		
Fiona	had	changed

Uses

- 1 Narrative – speaking about the past in the past ⇒ *When I got to the room, the meeting had already started*
- 2 Reported speech – what people have said ⇒ *She told me she had been to Bratislava*
- 3 The third conditional – consequences ⇒ *If I hadn't parked there, I wouldn't have got a fine*
- 4 The Past Simple – finished actions ⇒ *I went to the shop and I bought some milk*

Decide on the use and then fill the gaps with the verb in brackets using either the past perfect or the past simple tenses.

Use

- 1 By the time we got to the cinema, the film (to start), so we missed the first five minutes.
- 2 When I rang the bell, there was no answer. The neighbour told me that they (to go out) about half an hour ago.
- 3 I saw Casablanca for the first time last night. I (to see **NEGATIVE**) it before.
- 4 I feel fat. I (to have) a huge lunch.
- 5 I spent a week in Miami recently. I (to be **NEGATIVE**) there before.
- 6 There was so much to see in Toledo. I wanted to see everything but I (to have **NEGATIVE**) enough time.
- 7 If I (to know) about the concert, I would have gone.
- 8 If you (to take) my advice, it wouldn't have happened.
- 9 We would have had an argument, if she (to mention) politics.
- 10 If you (to park **NEGATIVE**) there, you wouldn't have got a parking fine.
- 11 They found the body on a building site. It (to mutilate "in the passive!").
- 12 She told me she (to buy) a new car.
- 13 The police said the teacher (to resist) arrest.
- 14 When he arrived, Eve wasn't there. She (to leave) about five minutes before.
- 15 When we arrived back in Spain, they (to lose) our luggage. We only had to wait to two days to get it back though, and they delivered it to the house.
- 16 When I (to get back), nobody had done the washing-up. I was furious.





Answers

- 1 By the time we got to the cinema the film had started, so we missed the first five minutes.
- 2 When I rang the bell there was no answer. The neighbour told me that they had gone out about half an hour ago.
- 3 I saw Casablanca for the first time last night. I had never seen it before.
- 4 I feel fat. I had a huge lunch.
- 5 I spent a week in Miami recently. I had never been there before.
- 6 There was so much to see in Toledo. I wanted to see everything but I didn't have enough time.
- 7 If I had known about the concert, I would have gone.
- 8 If you had taken my advice, it wouldn't have happened.
- 9 We would have had an argument, if she had mentioned politics.
- 10 If you hadn't parked there, you wouldn't have got a parking fine.
- 11 They found the body on a building site. It had been mutilated.
- 12 She told me she had bought a new car.
- 13 The police said the teacher had resisted arrest.
- 14 When he arrived, Eve wasn't there. She had left about five minutes before.
- 15 When we arrived back in Spain, they had lost our luggage. We only had to wait two days to get it back though, and they delivered it to the house.
- 16 When I got back, nobody had done the washing up. I was furious.

