

# Enter the World of Grammar

H. Q. MITCHELL



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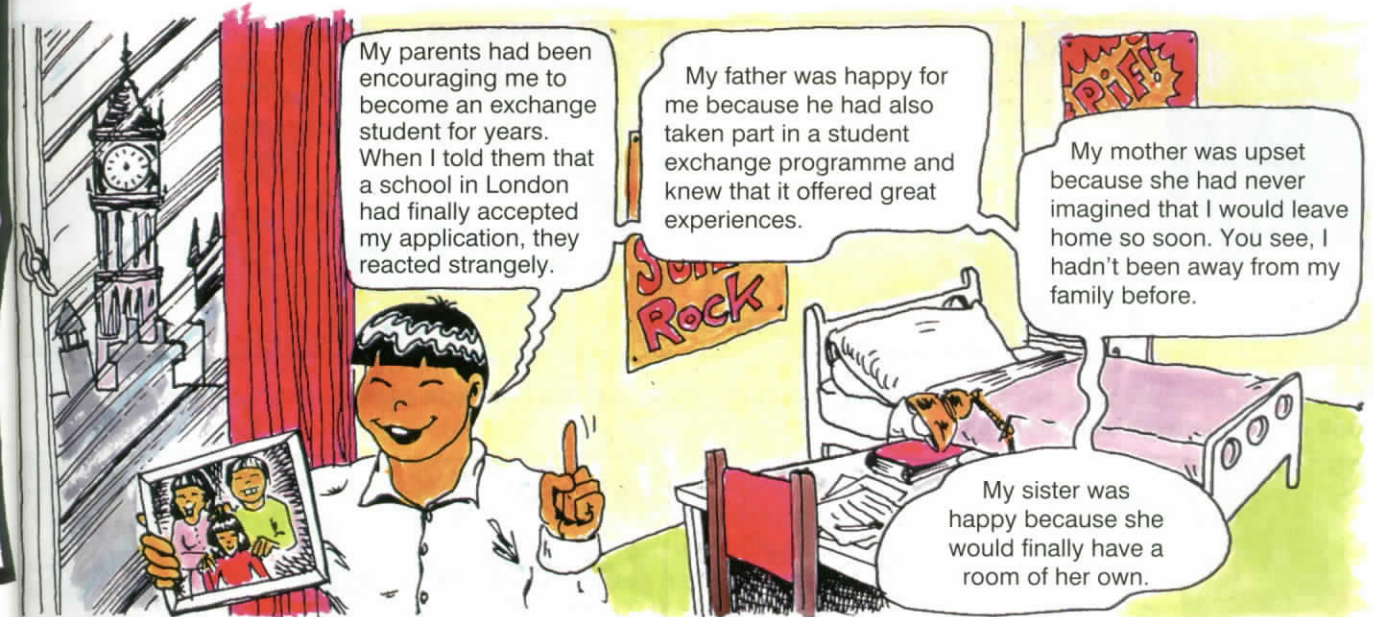






# Past Perfect Simple

## Past Perfect Progressive



I **had** (I'd) **worked**.  
I **had not** (**hadn't**) **worked**.  
**Had I worked?**

I **had been working**.  
I **had not been working**.  
**Had I been working?**

The **Past Perfect Simple** is used:

- for a past action that was completed before another past action. We use the **Past Perfect Simple** for the **first** action and the **Past Simple** for the **second** action:  
When we **arrived** at the airport, the plane **had** already **taken off**.
- for an action that was completed before a definite time in the past:  
I **had finished** my homework by 6:00 p.m. yesterday.

The **Past Perfect Progressive** is used:

- to emphasise the duration of an action that was happening before another one in the past:  
I **had been waiting** for two hours when he finally came.
- for an action which had been going on in the past and its results were visible later on in the past:  
The firemen looked exhausted. They **had been trying** to put out the fire for six hours.

### Time Expressions

by + time, by the time, after, before, when etc.

when, for, since, after, before, how long etc.

### NOTE

- When we use **before** or **after** to describe the **first** of two actions that happened in the past, we can use the **Past Simple** instead of the **Past Perfect Simple**:  
The students **had come** **before** the teacher arrived. **OR** The students **came** **before** the teacher arrived.



**ACTIVITIES**



**A** Communication - Pairwork

An exchange student has arrived from Japan and is staying with Johnson family in London for a year. Look at the pictures below. By the time the student arrived, what changes **had** the Johnson family **made** to the guest room?



The exchange student arrived on Saturday evening. What **had** the Johnson family **been doing** all day? Look at the pictures and discuss.



**B** Put the verbs in brackets into the **Past Simple** or the **Past Perfect Simple**.

- The children in the audience were (be) amazed. They \_\_\_\_\_ (never, see) a swan swallow before.
- He \_\_\_\_\_ (realise) that he \_\_\_\_\_ (not take) any money with him when he \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to pay at the supermarket check-out.
- The bathtub \_\_\_\_\_ (overflow) because Nina \_\_\_\_\_ (forget) to turn off the tap.
- We \_\_\_\_\_ (start off) late and by the time we \_\_\_\_\_ (reach) the station, the train \_\_\_\_\_ (already, leave).
- When Linda \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) at the library, she \_\_\_\_\_ (find) that it \_\_\_\_\_ (not open) yet.

**C** Join the sentences using the words in brackets and the **Past Perfect Simple**, as in the example.

- It started raining. Then, I left the office. (by the time)  
By the time I left the office, it had started raining.
- Nobody invited Tanya to the dance. She didn't go. (because)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- We finished eating. Then, Bill arrived. (when)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The policeman questioned the suspect for two hours. Then, he let him go. (after)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- The actors rehearsed the play many times. Then, they had the dress rehearsal. (before)  
\_\_\_\_\_



6. The karate lesson started. Then, James arrived at the gym. (by the time)
7. The students completed the exercise. Then, they had a break. (as soon as)

**D Find the sentence which is closest in meaning to the given one.**

- When the bell rang, the students had completed the test.
  - While the students were completing the test, the bell rang.
  - The students completed the test before the bell rang.
  - The bell rang and then the students completed the test.
- By the time my friend came, we had cut the cake.
  - We cut the cake before my friend came.
  - We cut the cake when my friend came.
  - We were cutting the cake when my friend came.
- As soon as Fred had finished washing the car, it started raining.
  - It started raining before Fred finished washing the car.
  - It started raining after Fred finished washing the car.
  - It was raining while Fred was washing the car.
- Vivian and Tom had already ordered dinner when we arrived at the restaurant.
  - Vivian and Tom ordered dinner after we arrived at the restaurant.
  - We arrived at the restaurant when Vivian and Tom were ordering dinner.
  - We arrived at the restaurant after Vivian and Tom had ordered dinner.
- The girl didn't go out until she had done her homework.
  - The girl did her homework after she went out.
  - The girl didn't go out because she had to do her homework.
  - The girl did her homework first and then she went out.



**E There was an earthquake yesterday. Read what the following people said and put the verbs in brackets into the Past Perfect Simple or the Past Perfect Progressive.**



"I was in my car at the time. I had left (leave) work later than usual. I \_\_\_\_\_ (never, experience) an earthquake before, so I didn't know what to do. I saw people running out of their houses. Some of them \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep). They were still in their pyjamas. Later, when the earthquake stopped, I continued driving and when I arrived home I was happy to see that the earthquake \_\_\_\_\_ (not destroy) my house," explained Mr Jones.



"I was very tired yesterday and I \_\_\_\_\_ (relax) in bed before the earthquake took place. Luckily, I \_\_\_\_\_ (not fall) asleep and I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) out of bed before part of the ceiling fell in on it. I \_\_\_\_\_ (never, feel) so frightened before in my life," said Mark.



"We \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a cartoon on TV for half an hour when the earthquake began. When our parents felt the earth shake, they shouted to us to get under the table but we \_\_\_\_\_ (already, do) so," said Maria.



