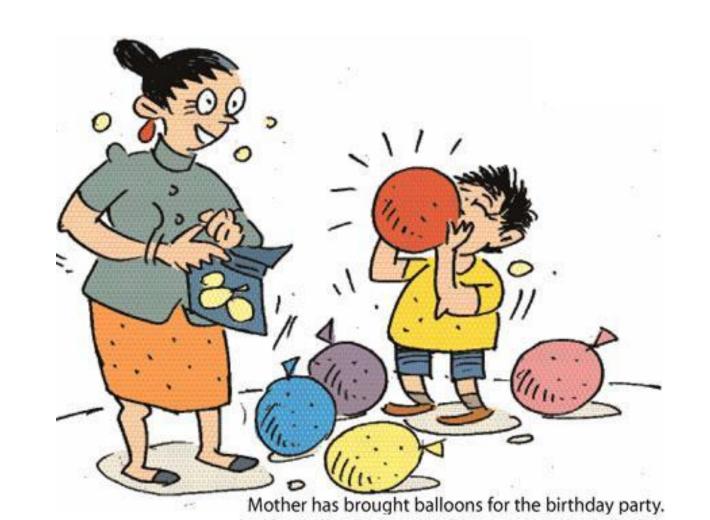
PAST PERECT TENSE

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•The **PAST PERFECT TENSE** indicates that an action was completed (finished or "perfected") at some point in the past before something else happened.



FORM

[had + past participle]

Examples:

You had studied English before you moved to New York.

Had you **studied** English before you moved to New York?

You had not studied English before you moved to New York.



PAST PERFECT

Form of Past Perfect Simple

Subject + auxiliary verb + past participle

Joe and Pete had

written Positive I had spoken

Negative I had not spoken

Question Had I spoken?

USE 1 COMPLETED ACTION BEFORE SOMETHING IN THE PAST



- The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.
- Examples:
- I had never seen such a beautiful beach before I went to Kauai.
- I did not have any money because I had lost my wallet.
- Tony knew Istanbul so well because he had visited the city several times.
- Had Susan ever studied Thai before she moved to Thailand?
- She only understood the movie because she had read the book.
- Kristine had never been to an opera before last night.
- We were not able to get a hotel room because we had not booked in advance.
- A: Had you ever visited the U.S. before your trip in 2006?
 B: Yes, I had been to the U.S. once before.



SOMETHING IN THE PAST (NON-CONTINUOUS VERBS) Past Present Future

- With Non-Continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past.
- Examples:
- We had had that car for ten years before it broke down.
- By the time Alex finished his studies, he had been in London for over eight years.
- They felt bad about selling the house because they **had owned** it for more than forty years.
- Although the above use of Past Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

IMPORTANT Specific Times with the Past Perfect

- Unlike with the <u>Present Perfect</u>, it is possible to use specific time words or phrases with the Past Perfect. Although this is possible, it is usually not necessary.
- Example:
- She **had visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.

MOREOVER

- If the Past Perfect action did occur at a specific time, the Simple Past can be used instead of the Past Perfect when "before" or "after" is used in the sentence. The words "before" and "after" actually tell you what happens first, so the Past Perfect is optional. For this reason, both sentences below are correct.
- Examples:
- She **had visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.
- She **visited** her Japanese relatives once in 1993 before she moved in with them in 1996.



HOWEVER

- If the Past Perfect is not referring to an action at a specific time, Past Perfect is not optional. Compare the examples below. Here Past Perfect is referring to a lack of experience rather than an action at a specific time. For this reason, Simple Past cannot be used.
- Examples:
- She never saw a bear before she moved to Alaska. Not Correct
- She had never seen a bear before she moved to Alaska. Correct

ADVERB PLACEMENT

- The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.
- Examples:
- You had previously studied English before you moved to New York.
- Had you previously studied English before you moved to New York?

ACTIVE / PASSIVE

- Examples:
- George had repaired many cars before he received his mechanic's license. Active
- Many cars had been repaired by George before he received his mechanic's license. Passive

