Past Perfect Tense

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Past perfect tense is used to express an action which has occurred in past (usually, a long time ago) and action which has occurred in past before another action in past.

Form

[had + past participle]

Examples:

➔ **Positive Form**

- You **had studied** English before you moved to New York.

➔ **Interrogative Form**

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

➔ **Negative Form**

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

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➔ **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:

- She only understood the movie because she **had read** the book.
- I did not have any money because I **had lost** my wallet.

➔ **USE 2 : Duration Before Something in the Past (Non-Continuous Verbs)**

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.

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