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We use the **Past Perfect** for something that started in the past and continued **up to a given time in the past**.



via <https://situationalenglish.blogspot.com/2015/05/upotreblenie-past-perfect.html>

Negative sentences

To make negative statements in the Past Perfect, we use:

had not (hadn't) + Past Participle

This is often used to explain or give a reason for something in the past.

Singular

Plural

*I **had not (hadn't) left***

*We **hadn't left***

*You **hadn't left***

*You **hadn't left***

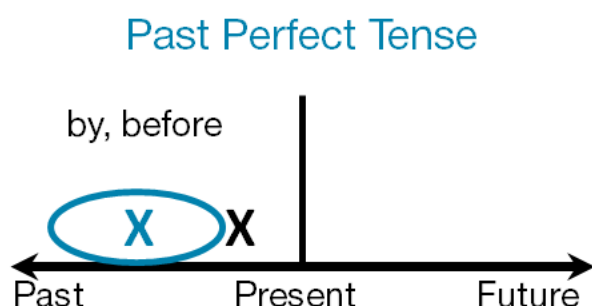
*He/she/it **hadn't left***

*They **hadn't left***

- Nick **hadn't attended** our meeting, so we discussed everything without him.
- I **hadn't read** the play before I went to the theater to see it.
- They were so excited. They **hadn't danced** together since 2014.

Questions in Past Perfect

We use **Past Perfect** tense to ask and answer questions about actions that took place before a certain moment or another action in the past.



had + Past Participle

via <https://www.learnathome.ru/grammar/past-perfect-tense.html>

To make questions in the Past Perfect, we put **'had' before the subject** and add the Past Participle form of the verb:

- **Had** they **arrived** in New York before it got dark?

Yes/No questions

To create a question that will be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', use **'Had'** (or **'Hadr't'** for a negative question) + [Past Participle](#) form of the verb.

Singular

Plural

Had I **seen**?

Had we **seen**?

Had you **seen**?

Had you **seen**?

Had he/she/it **seen**? **Had** they **seen**?

- **Had** you **seen** Helen playing squash with Nicole before the rain started?
- **Had** he **made** any mistakes before the teacher asked him to hand in the test?
- You looked pale. **Had** anybody **scared** you?

Note: In short positive answers to the Past Perfect questions we use only full forms of 'had'. In short negative answers we can also use short forms of 'had'.

- *Had you made your homework before the movie started?*
- *Yes, I **had** (No, I **hadn't**).*
- *Had he already finished cleaning when you came in?*
- *Yes, he **had** (No, he **hadn't**).*

Special questions

Special questions (also known as wh-questions) are questions that require more information in their answers. They are made using [wh- words](#) such as **what, where, when, why, which, who, how, how many, how much**.

To make a special question, use the same word order as with yes-no questions but put a wh-word before the verb 'had'. The structure is:

wh-word + had + [subject] + Past Participle

- *How **had** she **washed** clothes before the light went off?*
- *Why **had** Roy **gone** to America?*
- *How much **had** she **studied** before the exam?*
- *How many cups of coffee **had** he **drunk** before the interview?*

See also:

[Past Perfect: Statements](#)

[Present Perfect or Past Perfect?](#)