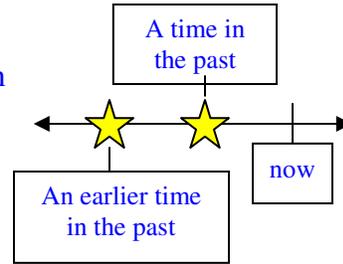


## The Past Tense – Past Perfect

*There are three aspects of the present tense:*

- 1) Simple past
- 2) Past progressive
- 3) **Past perfect (simple and progressive)**

★ = action



The **past perfect (simple) tense** is used to describe an action that has been completed *before* another past action. It is also used to describe an action that happened in the distant past (when it is understood that other actions have happened since that action).

- Use the helping verb “**has**” before a verb in past perfect simple tense to describe all subjects (**I, we, you, they, he, she, it**).

[subject] **[had]** [past participle]

Example: It had rained a lot before she came to town.

Example: I had studied very hard for the exams.

- Use the helping verb “**been**” after “**had**” when using the verb “**to be**” in the past perfect simple tense.

[subject] **[had]** **[been]** [object clause]

Example: She had been late to class several times before she got detention.

Example: His family had been nice in the past.

Directions: Complete the following sentences in the past perfect simple tense.

- 1) She \_\_\_\_\_ (to write) six letters before she got a response.
- 2) It \_\_\_\_\_ always \_\_\_\_\_ (to snow) here before 1978.
- 3) Dan \_\_\_\_\_ (to be) sick for three days before he got better.
- 4) Li and Susan \_\_\_\_\_ (to try) four times before they gave up.
- 5) My father’s old car \_\_\_\_\_ (to run) very well before he sold it.
- 6) We \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ (to take) the test before.
- 7) My uncle \_\_\_\_\_ (to visit) China several times in the past, so this visit was nothing new.
- 8) Our father \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ (to drive) to California.
- 9) I \_\_\_\_\_ (to speak) to the president twice before, so I was not that nervous.
- 10) The old man \_\_\_\_\_ occasionally \_\_\_\_\_ (to need) help crossing the street.

Directions: Put the following sentences in past perfect simple tense.

- 1) I do the laundry.

\_\_\_\_\_

2) It is cold.

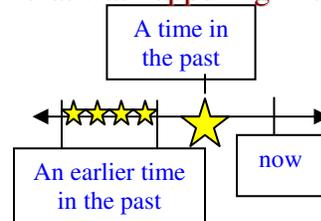
Directions: Now make your own sentences in the past perfect simple tense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

The **past perfect (progressive) tense** is used to describe an action that was happening before another past action. It is also used to describe an action that was happening in the distant past.

- Use the helping verb phrase “**had been**” before a verb in past perfect progressive tense to describe all subjects (**I, we, you, they, he, she, it**).



[subject] [**had**] [**been**] [verb + “ing”]

Example: He had been running for twenty minutes before he collapsed.

Example: I had been trying to design a safer car for six years.

Directions: Write the correct form of the verb in the spaces below.

- 1) We \_\_\_\_\_ (to learn) English at a private school in Hampton.
- 2) He \_\_\_\_\_ (to go) to the beach everyday before the summer ended.
- 3) I \_\_\_\_\_ (to play) the piano everyday after school.
- 4) Li \_\_\_\_\_ (to talk) to her friends before class started.
- 5) Wang, Ted, and Ko \_\_\_\_\_ (to drive) all day.
- 6) Andy and I \_\_\_\_\_ (to look) for my keys for two hours before we found them.
- 7) The Colorado River \_\_\_\_\_ (to flow) for centuries before it was dammed by beavers.
- 8) My new car \_\_\_\_\_ (to make) strange noises until I took it to a mechanic.
- 9) Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ (to save) his money for as long as he claims.
- 10) Nidia \_\_\_\_\_ (to live) in New York for ten years before I met her.

Directions: Put the following sentences in past perfect progressive tense.

1) I go to work everyday.

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Sarah wears jeans all the time.

\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Now make your own sentences in the past perfect progressive tense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_