

PAST PERFECT: SIMPLE & CONTINUOUS

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Practice | 20-30 minutes

Explain earlier results and activity that shaped a later past situation.

1. GET STARTED

Take turns asking and answering. Give details and ask a follow-up. You can invent personal details.

A: Why were you so relieved when the coach finally arrived?

B: I'd been waiting for two hours. I'd already missed one connection.

A: That's frustrating. Had they told you anything about the delay?

2. BEFORE THAT MOMENT

1. When you last felt relieved, what **had happened** before that moment?
2. Before a recent deadline, how long **had you been preparing**? Was it enough?
3. When you last felt physically tired, what **had you been doing**?
4. Before a successful trip, what **had you arranged** that made things easier?
5. When you last changed your mind, what information **had you received**?
6. When you met an old friend again, how long **had you known** each other?

Keep talking: What had you finished? / What had you been doing? / What happened next?

3. EXPLAIN THE BACKGROUND

Choose a past reference point. Distinguish earlier completion from earlier duration.

7. You arrived late for an appointment. What **had delayed** you?
8. You finally solved a problem. How long **had you been working** on it?
9. You felt ready for a presentation. What **had you checked** before starting?
10. You were disappointed by a result. What **had you been expecting**?

4. RECONSTRUCT A DIFFICULT DAY

Describe a day when a plan went wrong. Begin with the moment you noticed the problem.

Explain an earlier result, an earlier activity and what you did next.

Example: I'd been travelling all night, and I'd left my notes on the train.

Your partner retells the sequence and asks about anything that isn't clear.

Answer help: By then, I'd ... / I'd been ... for ... / I felt ... because ...

Remember: Establish a past reference point. Use simple forms for states such as know.