

PAST PERFECT (GRAMMAR)

The Past Perfect is used to make it clear that one event happened before another in the past and it does not matter which event is mentioned first.

- When they arrived, we had already started cooking.
- We had already started cooking when they arrived.
- I was very tired because I hadn't slept well.
- I hadn't slept well, so I was very tired.
- By the time I arrived at school, my teacher had left.

The past perfect refers to time up to a point in the past (time up to then), just as the present perfect refers to something that happened in the time up to the moment of speaking (time up to now):

- I've been to five countries in Europe. (Present Perfect)
- I'd been to five countries in Europe by 2001. (Past Perfect)
- I'd seen all of Elvis Presley's movies by the time I was 20!

PAST PERFECT: FORM

We use had + the -ed form of the verb.

AFFIRMATIVE	I, she, he, it, you, we, they	(full form) had	worked.
I, she, he, it, you, we, they	(short form) 'd		
NEGATIVE	I, she, he, it, you, we, they	(full form) had not	worked.

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I, she, he, it, you, we, they	(short form) hadn't		
QUESTION + AFFIRMATIVE	Had I, she, he, it, you, we, they	worked?	
QUESTION + NEGATIVE	(full form) Had I, she, he, it, you, we, they	not	worked?
(short form) Hadn't I, she, he, it, you, we, they			

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https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/grammar/british-grammar/past/past-perfectsimple-i-had-worked

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