PAST PERFECT: USES

(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)	**worked**.

		had not	
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			