

THEME 4 WHAT A LIFE GRAMMAR

1. PAST SIMPLE TENSE

We use the simple past tense

- to talk about states that happened and finished at a specific time in the past.

Last week we were in İstanbul and visited İstanbul Toy Museum with my grandmother.

- to list a series of completed actions in the past. These events follow each other.

I put my mother's all jewellery in a drawer. Then I went outside to play 'museum game' with my friends

First I finished my homework and then I went out to get some fresh air.

- to describe habits which stopped in the past.

She worked part-time after school when she was younger.

Attention: Here it can have the same meaning with “used to”. Therefore, when we are talking about a past habit by using the simple past tense, we usually add expressions such as always, usually, never, when I was a child or when I was younger, etc.

I never walked to school when I was a child. My father always took me to school.

Affirmative

I / He / She / It watched a film yesterday.

We / You / They heard a terrible noise last night.

Negative

I / He / She / It didn't watch a film yesterday.

We / You / They didn't hear a terrible noise last night.

Interrogative

Did I / he / she / it watch a film yesterday?

Did we / you / they hear a terrible noise last night?

Exercise 1 : Complete the text with the verbs from the box in the past simple.

have / get / look for / find / happen / be / realize / start

On a summer day in 1986, my younger sister and I, at that time aged 4 and 5, were playing with our dolls. We _____ alone at home because our parents were at work. After I had the idea to give the dolls some hairstyle change, I _____ the scissors with great determination. I don't know how I found them in the end but I remember I cut all the dolls' hair. We had great fun and liked the result so much that I _____ to cut my sister's hair in the same style. She had gorgeous black straight hair. Our parents _____ my sister with a winter hat on when they came home later. Since it was summer, they thought it was a game of ours at first. However, they _____ that something was wrong when my sister insisted on wearing it all night. Imagine the surprise they had when they discovered what _____. They _____ a bit angry and mum had to take my sister to a hairdresser's. Having felt guilty at first, we _____ a joyful memory to remember. Well, my sister and I can't remember much of all this but we can imagine how funny it was because we still have the dolls with my 'stylish haircut' on.

2. THE PAST PERFECT TENSE

We use the past perfect tense

- to describe a past action which happened before another past action. We use the past perfect tense for the first action and the simple past tense for the second action.

By the time I went out at the museum I had felt like a time traveller in the large archives of life.

I had never seen so many animal fossils and plants from all around the world.

Affirmative

Subject +Had+ Verb3

I / He / She / It / We / You / They had slept when the film ended.

Negative

Subject +had not (hadn't) + Verb3

I / He / She / It / We / You / They hadn't slept when the film ended.

Interrogative

Had +Subject+ Verb3....?

Had I / he / she / it / we / you / they slept when the film ended?

3. PAST SIMPLE AND PAST PERFECT TENSE

We usually use the past perfect tense with the simple past together with these common conjunctions:

WHEN + simple past, past perfect

When our guests came, my mother had already laid the table.

Simple past, BECAUSE + past perfect

I went straight to bed, because I had been really tired

AFTER + past perfect, simple past

After Karen had had her breakfast, she left home for school.

BEFORE + simple past, past perfect

Before the police arrived the crime scene, the thief had run away.

AS SOON AS + past perfect, simple past

As soon as she had opened the door, she went straight to the kitchen and prepared something to eat.

BY THE TIME + simple past, past perfect

By the time the fire brigade arrived, a large part of the building had burnt.

Exercise 2 : Put the verbs into the correct form; past perfect or past simple.

1. A: Was your father at home when you arrived?

B: No, he _____ (go) out to meet his old friends.

2. Before they _____ (buy) a new house, they _____ (sell) their old one.

3. After I _____ (spend) tiring and long hours at work, I _____ (go) straight to the bathroom to take a warm shower.

4. As soon as Nick _____ (hear) happy news, he _____ (congratulate) me.

5. The policeman _____ (take) the man to the police station because he _____ (rob) the bank.

6. Sheila _____ (take) a nap after she _____ (prepare) something for dinner.
7. We _____ (be) 10 minutes late when the film _____ (start).
8. Last week, I _____ (see) one of my school friends. I _____ (not/see) him for years before that.
9. He _____ (pay) the bills as soon as he _____ (get) the money from the bank.
10. By the time the ambulance _____ (arrive), the injured man _____ (die) of bleeding.

Exercise 3 : Put the verbs into the correct form; past perfect or past simple.

1. After Jason _____ (spend) his twenty years studying on DNA, he _____ (devote) himself to save lives.
2. Fred _____ (phone) his wife at work before he _____ (leave) for his trip to Paris.
3. Her family _____ (publish) her last book after she _____ (die) in an accident.
4. When she _____ (come) to the class, the lesson _____ (already / start).
5. By the age of 20, he _____ (learn) five languages and _____ (do) better in his work.
6. Before I _____ (go) to sleep last night, I _____ (watch) a documentary on space.
7. The man _____ (make) a great donation to the museum after he _____ (complete) his visit.
8. By the time the ambulance _____ (arrive), passersby _____ (help) the injured students on the school bus.

Exercise 4 : Write the first halves of the sentences using the past perfect and then match the halves.

1. Our parents / know / each other / for six years

2. My best friend / never / be / to Italy

3. Most of our students / never / see / a dinosaur skeleton

4. My sister / never / win / a gold medal

5. After / my mother / learn / the truth

6. As Mary / never / fly / before

- a. she felt better and called everyone to give the news.
- b. until she got her best score in the last tournament last year.
- c. before they got married in Paris in 1979.
- d. she felt very nervous during the flight.
- e. before she went there for a language course.
- f. by the time we organised a visit to a nature and science museum