

## 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

## THEME 4 WHAT A LIFE GRAMMAR EXERCISES ANSWER KEY

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

On a summer day in 1986, my younger sister and I, at that time aged 4 and 5, were playing with our dolls. We (1) **were** alone at home because our parents were at work. After I had the idea to give the dolls some hairstyle change, I (2) **looked for** 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 (3) **started** to cut my sister's hair in the same style. She had gorgeous blackstraight hair. Our parents (4) **found** 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 (5) **realised** that something was wrong when my sister insisted on wearing it all night. Imagine the surprise they had when they discovered what (6) **happened**. They (7) **got** a bit angry and mum had to take my sister to a hairdresser's. Having felt guilty at first, we (8) **had** 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.

### 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 **had gone** (go) out to meet his old friends.
2. Before they **bought** (buy) a new house, they **had sold** (sell) their old one.
3. After I **had spent** (spend) tiring and long hours at work, I **went** (go) straight to the bathroom to take a warm shower.
4. As soon as Nick **had heard** (hear) happy news, he **congratulated** (congratulate) me.
5. The policeman **took** (take) the man to the police station because he **had robbed** (rob) the bank.
6. Sheila **took** (take) a nap after she **had prepared** (prepare) something for dinner.
7. We **were** (be) 10 minutes late when the film **had started** (start).
8. Last week, I **saw** (see) one of my school friends. I **hadn't seen** (not/see) him for years before that.
9. He **paid** (pay) the bills as soon as he **had got** (get) the money from the bank.
10. By the time the ambulance **arrived** (arrive), the injured man **had died** (die) of bleeding.

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

1. After Jason **had spent** (spend) his twenty years studying on DNA, he **devoted** (devote) himself to save lives.
2. Fred **had phoned** (phone) his wife at work before he **left** (leave) for his trip to Paris.
3. Her family **published** (publish) her last book after she **had died** (die) in an accident.
4. When she **came** (come) to the class, the lesson **had already started** (already / start).
5. By the age of 20, he **had learned** (learn) five languages and **done** (do) better in his work.
6. Before I **went** (go) to sleep last night, I **had watched** (watch) a documentary on space.
7. The man **made** (make) a great donation to the museum after he **had completed** (complete) his visit.
8. By the time the ambulance **arrived** (arrive), passersby **had helped** (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 **Our parents had known each other for six years**
2. My best friend / never / be / to Italy **My best friend had never been to Italy**
3. Most of our students / never / see / a dinosaur skeleton **Most of our students had never seen a dinosaur skeleton**
4. My sister / never / win / a gold medal **My sister had never won a gold medal**
5. After / my mother / learn / the truth **After my mother had learned the truth**
6. As Mary / never / fly / before **As Mary had never flown before**

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