PICTURE GRAMMAR

PH1 | B1

What had happened?

Two past events. Which happened first?

Earlier: past perfect

had + past participle (verb 3)
The bus **had left**.
Negative: **hadn’t left** Question: **Had it left?**

Later: past simple

Maya **arrived** at the bus stop.
The bus left first. Maya arrived later.
The bus left → Maya arrived → now

Use the **past perfect** to look back from one past event to an earlier event.
Had is the same for I, you, he, she, it, we and they.

Complete the sentences. Use **had / hadn’t + past participle** and the verbs in brackets.
In each picture pair, the left event happened first. Picture 1 is an example.

1

EARLIER LATER



When Maya arrived at the bus stop,
the bus **had already left**.

2

EARLIER LATER



Leo couldn’t open his front door because
he _____ his keys inside. (leave)

3

EARLIER LATER



The floor was wet because the dog
_____ its water bowl. (knock over)

4

EARLIER LATER



When Zara opened the fridge, she saw that
her flatmate _____ all the juice. (drink)

5

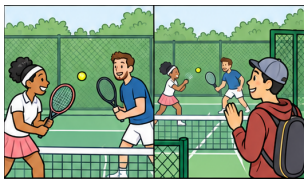
EARLIER LATER



Rae was pleased because she
_____ her exam. (pass)

6

EARLIER LATER



When Tom arrived at the tennis court,
his friends _____ the game. (start)

7

EARLIER LATER



The printer didn’t work because I
_____ any paper in it. (not put)

8

EARLIER LATER



Ava was cold at the bus stop because
she _____ a coat. (not bring)

Say it another way: choose a picture. Use “By the time…” or “… because …”.

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PICTURE GRAMMAR

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What had happened?

Let’s talk: what happened before?

Work with a partner. Take turns asking the questions. Give a real answer or invent one.
Use past simple for the situation and past perfect for what happened before it.

A small problem. A story to tell.

A: Tell me about a time you couldn’t get into your home.
B: Last month, I couldn’t get in because I’d left my keys at work.
A: What did you do next? **B:** I called my flatmate.
I’d = I had. You can also use the full form: I had left my keys at work.

Tell your partner about a time when...

1. ... you arrived too late for something.
What had happened before you arrived?

2. ... you forgot to bring something important.
What had you left at home or somewhere else?

3. ... someone surprised you in a good way.
What had they done before you saw them?

4. ... something didn’t work.
What had gone wrong?

5. ... you felt very prepared for something.
What had you done to get ready?

6. ... you changed a plan.
What had happened to make you change it?

7. ... you couldn’t find something.
Where had you put it?

8. ... you tried something new.
What had you never done before that day?

Useful story starters

I was surprised because I’d... / I couldn’t... because I hadn’t...
By the time I arrived, ... had already...
Keep talking: What happened next? How did you feel? What did you do?

Before you finish: tell the class one interesting story about your partner.
Make it clear which event happened first.

Picture answers

1. When Maya arrived at the bus stop, the bus had already left.
2. Leo couldn’t open his front door because he had left his keys inside.
3. The floor was wet because the dog had knocked over its water bowl.
4. When Zara opened the fridge, she saw that her flatmate had drunk all the juice.
5. Rae was pleased because she had passed her exam.
6. When Tom arrived at the tennis court, his friends had started the game.
7. The printer didn’t work because I hadn’t put any paper in it.
8. Ava was cold at the bus stop because she hadn’t brought a coat.

Full forms and contractions are both correct. Speaking answers are personal.

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PICTURE GRAMMAR

PH1 | B1

What had happened?

Mini homework: what happened first?

Complete the gaps. Use the past perfect simple and the verbs in brackets.
Look for the event that happened before the other past event.

Remember: had + past participle / hadn't + past participle
Question: Had + subject + past participle?
The café had closed before we arrived.

1. When we arrived, the shop _____. (close)

2. By the time the film started, we _____ our seats. (find)

3. I was hungry because I _____ breakfast. (not eat)

4. She _____ the file before the meeting began. (send)

5. _____ you _____ Dana before the party last night? (meet)

6. They missed the train because they _____ home too late. (leave)

Check your work: finish all six sentences before looking below.

Self-check answers

1. had closed **2.** had found **3.** hadn't eaten
4. had sent **5.** Had ... met **6.** had left

Full forms and contractions are both correct. The past perfect event happened first in every sentence.

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