



# the Past Perfect tense

What is this tense . . . .

. . . and when do we use it in English?

# Meaning of Past Perfect:

~Use 1: Completed Action Before Something in the Past

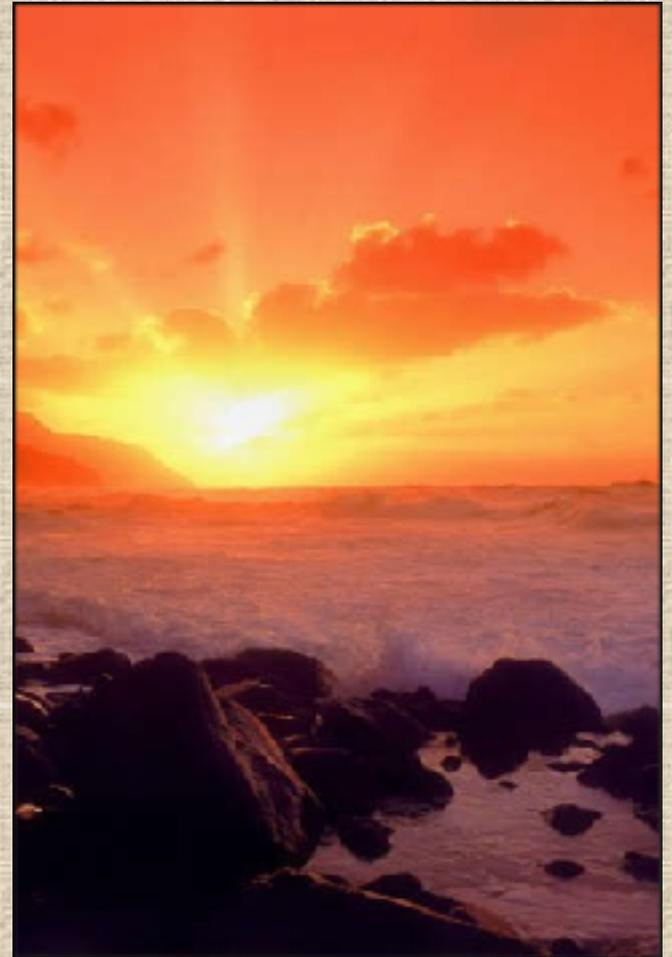


- The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred **before** another action in the past.
- It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past

# Examples:

~Use 1: Completed Action Before  
Something in the Past

1. She only understood the movie because she **had read** the book.
2. I **had** never **seen** such a beautiful sunset before I went to Hawaii.



# Meaning of Past Perfect:

~Use 2: Duration Before Something in the Past



- We can also use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past **and continued** up until another action in the past.

# Examples:

## ~Use 2:

Duration Before Something in the Past

1. We **had owned** our car for 10 years before it finally died.



2. They **had been** married for 5 years when they had their first child.



# Meaning of Past Perfect:

## ~Important Note:

Specific Times with the Past Perfect



• Unlike with **the Present Perfect Tense**, it is possible to use specific time words or phrases with the Past Perfect.

• Although this is **possible**, it is usually **not necessary**.

# Example:

## ~Specific Times:

Often, you can use the simple past OR the past perfect.

• She **had visited** the U.S. once in 2000 before she moved here in 2005.

← **past perfect**

← **simple past**

2. She **visited** the U.S.

# Past Perfect tense

How do we make the present perfect tense in English?

Can you think of the grammar rule?

He had already left when she called.



Form:

This grammar has 2 parts:

Had +

verb  
past participle

\*use HAD for all subjects

# Negative Form:

had not + verb (past participle)

OR

hadn't + verb (past participle)

Example:

The teacher hadn't finished correcting papers when the students started to arrive.



# Interrogative Form:

had + subject + verb (past participle)

Example:

Had she finished correcting papers  
when the students started  
to arrive?



# The End

