



# PAST SIMPLE OR PAST PERFECT?

## SIMPLE PAST TENSE

We use Simple Past Tense to express action or actions started and finished at a specific time in the past.

**Examples :** I watched TV last night.

Henry painted the fence all day long yesterday.

## PAST PERFECT TENSE

We use Past Perfect Tense to express that an action or actions happened before something else happened.

**Examples :** I had eaten dinner before they came  
Tilly had seen that film before it was on TV.

**A) Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use Past Simple.**

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on a cruise holiday last June. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) really fantastic.
2. Logan \_\_\_\_\_ (collect) all the rubbish in the school garden and \_\_\_\_\_ (throw) it into the litter bin.
3. Florence \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) two sandwiches and \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) two glasses of lemonade at lunch.
4. Mr. Edwards \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) to the city center and \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new leather bag.
5. Benjamin hadn't known the answer to the question so he \_\_\_\_\_ (not raise) his hand up.
6. Teresa \_\_\_\_\_ (write) a letter for her aunt in Whales and \_\_\_\_\_ (put) it in an envelope yesterday afternoon.
7. James \_\_\_\_\_ (get up) early, \_\_\_\_\_ (wash) his face and \_\_\_\_\_ (brush) his teeth.

**B) Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use Past Perfect.**

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) answering the questions before the bell rang.
2. When Matthew arrived at home, his wife \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) the meal.
3. Mrs. Lawrence \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the window before she went to bed.
4. Before Darcy entered this competition she \_\_\_\_\_ (practise) for two months.
5. Dexter \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) a skeleton before he visited the museum with his friends.
6. When the earthquake happened, we \_\_\_\_\_ (not finish) our work at the office.
7. Simon \_\_\_\_\_ (take) a shower before the guests arrived for the party.
8. The thief \_\_\_\_\_ (jump) out of the window by the time he opened the door.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not watch) a horror film before we went to the cinema last Wednesday.
10. Mrs. Reid \_\_\_\_\_ (work) for the company for 30 years when she got retired last year.

**C) Past Simple or Past Perfect? Read the sentences carefully and circle the correct options.**

1. The robbers **left** / **had left** the bank when the policemen finally **arrived** / **had arrived**.
2. When the rain **started** / **had started**, the Atkinsons **finished** / **had finished** planting trees.
3. By the time Rebecca **went** / **had gone** into the store, she **got** / **had got** soaked.
4. Darcey **saw** / **had seen** this castle before she **came** / **had come** again last Sunday.
5. Mr. Palmer **didn't speak** / **hadn't spoken** any Chinese before he **moved** / **had moved** to Peking.
6. Sonny **got** / **had got** fainted by the time the ambulance **reached** / **had reached** the hospital.
7. When my mother **brought** / **had brought** me an apple, I **finished** / **had finished** my homework.
8. Mrs. Wilkinson **refused** / **had refused** to drive the car because she **had** / **had had** a terrible accident on the highway about a year ago.
9. I **didn't think** / **hadn't thought** of having a new house before I **saw** / **had seen** that ad on TV.
10. My uncle **didn't try** / **hadn't tried** Italian food before **went** / **had gone** to that restaurant.



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## ANSWER KEY

**A) Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use Past Simple.**

1. went - was
2. collected - threw
3. ate - drank
4. drove - bought
5. didn't raise
6. wrote - put
7. got up - washed - brushed

**B) Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets. Use Past Perfect.**

1. had finished
2. had cooked
3. had opened
4. had practised
5. hadn't seen
6. hadn't finished
7. had taken
8. had jumped
9. hadn't watched
10. had worked

**C) Past Simple or Past Perfect? Read the sentences carefully and circle the correct options.**

1. had left - arrived
2. started - had finished
3. went - had got
4. had seen - came
5. hadn't spoken - moved
6. had got - reached
7. brought - had finished
8. refused - had had
9. hadn't thought - saw
10. hadn't tried - went