The Past Perfect & Past Perfect Progressive Tenses

Student Name: Date:

Instructor: Course:

About This DLA

Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before meeting with a tutor and receiving credit. Where indicated, complete your work on this sheet. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor's signature included.

Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you with and help you create sentences with accurate use of the past perfect and past perfect progressive tenses.

Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

The Past Perfect Tense

Use the past perfect tense to express:

1. An action that happened/didn't happen BEFORE another action/specific time in the past

The past perfect expresses actions that happened before another action and/or specific time in the past. If you have two actions, put the action that happened first in the **past perfect** and the action that happened second in *simple past*.

Example: The movie **had started** when I *arrived*.

Example: She **hadn't finished** school before she *got* the job.

Example: *By** the time we *got* to the station, the bus **had left**. *By** 1995, I **had** already **moved** here.

***By** *is another word for before.*

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2. To show the cause of a past action

When you want to talk about **why** something happened, use the past perfect.

Example: Kim *had* a car accident **because she *hadn't gotten* enough sleep the night before**.

3. Past Perfect vs. Simple Past

If the past perfect action occurred at a specific time, you can use the simple past instead of the past perfect when *before* or *after* is used in the sentence. The words *before* and *after* actually tell you what happens first, so the past perfect is optional. For this reason, both sentences below are correct.

Example: She **had visited** her relatives once in 1999 ***before*** she *moved* in with them in 2001.

Example: She **visited** her relatives once in 1999 ***before*** she *moved* in with them in 2001.

4. Non-action verbs that were on-going before a specific time/ another action in the past

Because non-action verbs cannot be put into a progressive form, use the past perfect for those verbs if they occurred *before* another action or a specific time in the past.

Example: He **had loved** me for a year ***before*** we *dated*.

Example: *By* 2010, I **had owned** a house for eight years.

How to Form the Past Perfect

{ had + past participle }

Examples: I **had** *never* **flown** *before* I went to Hawaii. He **had** *already* **given** me the check by noon.

*Notice that adverbs like *already*, *never*, *just*, come after **had**.

Do not use the past form of the verb. You need to use the past participle, which sometimes looks like the past form, but at other times it does not. Here are some verbs and their past participles:

Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle
awake	awoken	get	gotten	see	seen
be	been	give	given	sell	sold
become	become	go	gone	send	sent
begin	begun	grow	grown	sing	sung
blow	blown	have	had	sit	sat
break	broken	hear	heard	sleep	slept
buy	bought	keep	kept	speak	spoken

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Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle
catch	caught	know	known	stand	stood
choose	chosen	lay	laid	steal	stolen
come	come	leave	left	sweep	swept
do	done	lie	lain	swim	swum
draw	drawn	lose	lost	take	taken
drink	drunk	make	made	teach	taught
drive	driven	mean	meant	tell	told
eat	eaten	meet	met	think	thought
fall	fallen	pay	paid	throw	thrown
feel	felt	ride	ridden	understand	understood
find	found	rise	risen	wear	worn
fly	flown	run	run	win	won
forget	forgotten	say	said	write	written

The Past Perfect Progressive Tense

Use the past perfect progressive (also called past perfect continuous) tense to express:

1. An action that was in progress BEFORE another action/specific time in the past

The past perfect progressive is used for actions that were going on before another action and/or specific time in the past. If you have two actions, put the action that started first in the **past perfect progressive** and the action that happened second in *simple past*.

Example: *By the time I came* to the U.S., I **had been studying** English for two years.

Example: She **had been driving** for twenty minutes *when* her tire *blew out*.

2. To show the cause of a past action

When you want to talk about **why** something happened, use the past perfect progressive for on-going actions.

Example: Kim *had* a car accident **because she *had been driving* for 12 hours non-stop.**

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How to Form the Past Perfect Progressive

{ had + been + verb-ing }

Example: The students **had been waiting** for twenty minutes *when* the professor finally *arrived*.

*Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*) are usually not in a progressive form.

Example: He **had loved** her for a year before they *dated*. (NOT had been loving)

How to Make Questions and Negative Statements

Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive

Negative Statements:

Start with the *subject*, then ***had***, followed by **not**, and then ***the rest of the verb***.

Examples:

I had left.	I ***had*** **not** ***left***.
He had paid his fees.	He ***had*** **not** ***paid*** his fees.
You had been working.	You ***had*** **not** ***been working***.

Questions:

Start with the helper (***had***), then the *subject*, and then ***the rest of the verb***. You can add a *wh-* word at the beginning if you need it.

Examples:

She had finished the project.	***Had*** *she* ***finished*** the project?
I had already started it.	***Had*** *you* ***started*** it?
They had been working on it.	***Had*** *they* ***been working*** on it?

What ***had*** *she* ***finished***?
What ***had*** *you* ***started***?
How long ***had*** *they* ***been working***?

Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

☐ *1. Review the Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive Tenses*

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

a. In what situations do we use the past perfect tense?

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b. In what situations do we use the past perfect progressive tense?

☐ *2. Online Quiz*

Go to http://tinyurl.com/PastPerfectTensesDLAQuiz and take the Past Perfect Tenses Quiz. You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THE TUTOR HAS PRINTED THIS PAGE (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

Choose 3a or 3b Below

☐ *3a. Practice with Your Own Writing*

Collect some of your graded work. Find and write down examples of sentences that contain the following:

1. An action that happened before another action in the past:

2. A past action and its cause:

3. An action that happened before a specific time in the past:

4. An action that was in progress before another action in the past:

If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).

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☐ *3b. Create Sentences*

Look at the timeline of Nelson Mandela's life below. Write five different sentences using the **past perfect** or the **past perfect progressive**. Also, remember to include the **simple past** when you use words like *by the time, before,* or *when*.

- ***Example*:** By the time Mandela **married** Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela, he **had started** the first black law firm in South Africa.

Year	Event
1918	Nelson Mandela is born.
1952	Mandela starts the first black law firm in South Africa.
1958	Mandela marries Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela.
1961	Mandela helps found the guerilla faction of the African National Congress.
1964	Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state.
1990	Mandela is released from prison.
1993	Mandela wins the Nobel Peace Prize with F.W. de Klerk for ending apartheid peacefully.
1994	Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa.
1996	Mandela and his wife, Winnie, divorce.
2004	Mandela retires from public life.
2013	Mandela dies from a respiratory infection at age 95.

1. _____

_____

2. _____

_____

3. _____

_____

4. _____

_____

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5. _____

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☐ *4. Review the DLA*

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the "**DLA Walk-in**" list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of the past perfect tenses. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with the past perfect and past perfect progressive.

Student's signature: _____ Date: _____

Tutor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

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