

III. The Past Perfect

A. Form

- had + past participle (past participle = infinitive + -ed or irregular)

affirmative		negative		interrogative	
I	had studied	I	hadn't bought	Had	I learnt?
You	had studied	You	hadn't bought	Had	You learnt?
He/she/it	had studied	He/she/it	hadn't bought	Had	He/she/it learnt?
We	had studied	We	hadn't bought	Had	We learnt?
They	had studied	They	hadn't bought	Had	They learnt?

B. Use

- idea that something occurred before another action in the past / before a specific time in the past
- duration before something in the past
- the past of the Present Perfect

C. Signal Words

- already
- just
- never
- before

D. Examples

- You had studied English before you moved to New York.
- By the time Kyle finished his studies, he had been in London for over eight years.
- My brother had never even heard of the pyramids before he visited Egypt three years ago.

IV. The Past Perfect Continuous

A. Form

- had + been + infinitive + -ing

affirmative		negative		interrogative	
I	had been buying	I	hadn't been crying	Had	I been waiting?
You	had been buying	You	hadn't been crying	Had	You been waiting?
He/she/it	had been buying	He/she/it	hadn't been crying	Had	He/she/it been waiting?
We	had been buying	We	hadn't been crying	Had	We been waiting?
They	had been buying	They	hadn't been crying	Had	They been waiting?

B. Use

- something that started in the past and continued up until another time in the past
- shows cause and effect when used before another action in the past

C. Signal Words

- how long
- since / for
- for 2 months

D. Examples

- She had been working at that company for three years when it went out of business.
- Jason was tired because he had been jogging.
- How long had you been waiting for your date before she arrived?