

Past Perfect - Structure

How do we make the past perfect tense in English?

Note: This is also called the **past perfect simple** tense.

Positive form

Use the **past simple of "have" (had)** and the **past participle**.

Full form	Short form
I had played	I'd played
you had played	you'd played
he had played	he'd played
she had played	she'd played
it had played	it'd played
we had played	we'd played
they had played	they'd played

For example:

- I **had played** chess with him before.
- She'd **worked** there since 2015.
- They'd already **cleaned** the bathroom.

Negative form

Put **"not"** after the **past simple of "have" (had)**.

Full form	Short forms	
I had not played	I hadn't played	*I'd not played
you had not played	you hadn't played	you'd not played
he had not played	he hadn't played	he'd not played
she had not played	she hadn't played	she'd not played
it had not played	it hadn't played	it'd not played
we had not played	we hadn't played	we'd not played
they had not played	they hadn't played	they'd not played

*The structure in the third column is sometimes used in British English, but it is rarely used in other varieties of English. When used in other varieties, it sounds quite formal.

For example:

- I **hadn't finished** my assignment by the deadline.
- Melissa **hadn't been** to Australia before. (she hadn't been)
- It **had not arrived** yet.
- He **hadn't spoken** to them all day.
- We **'d not seen** her since Christmas.

Question forms

Invert the subject and "had", and then put a question word ("what", "who", etc.) at the beginning for wh- questions.

Yes/No questions	
	Had I played ?
	Had you played ?
	Had he played ?
	Had she played ?
	Had it played ?
	Had we played ?
	Had they played ?

Wh- questions	
What Who Where When Why How etc.	had I played ?
	had you played ?
	had he played ?
	had she played ?
	had it played ?
	had we played ?
	had they played ?

For example:

- Had I **written** the address correctly?
- Had you **seen** the movie before?
- Had Maria **emailed** you the results yet? (had she emailed)
- What **had** you **done** that day?
- How long **had** we **known** John when he got married?
- Who **had** they **invited** to the party?