

# Past Perfect Tense

## What Is the Past Perfect Tense?

The **past perfect tense** is an English verb tense used for a completed activity in the past. It emphasizes that an action was completed **before** another action took place. For example:

- Diane **had baked** a cake before her friends arrived.

**Hint:** Most sentences featuring the past perfect tense include the word "before."



Some more examples:

- They **had painted** the fence before I had a chance to speak to them.
- She asked if I **had seen** her dog.

Exercise 1: *Write the form of the verb in bold type, past perfect tense.*

1. Keven \_\_\_\_\_ the alarm clock before he fell asleep .  
(wind)
2. The gardener \_\_\_\_\_ both lawns yesterday before he  
fell ill. (mow)
3. The tiger \_\_\_\_\_ at the daring hunter before he could  
shout out.
4. Mrs. White \_\_\_\_\_ a silk dress in the sale, before Jim  
called.. (buy)
5. Both of the detectives had been \_\_\_\_\_ to secrecy.  
(swear)
6. Christopher \_\_\_\_\_ to say his prayers. (kneel)
7. The woodman rested when he had \_\_\_\_\_ all the  
wood. (saw)
8. The tiger \_\_\_\_\_ at the daring hunter. (spring)

Exercise 2

Complete the table below.

Present tense	Past tense	Participle
Buy	bought	bought
Kneel	knell	
	mowed	
swear	swore	
Spring		sprung
wind	wound	