



The Past Perfect Tense

We don't use the past perfect a lot in English, but it is useful, and it sounds very good if you can use it correctly. Also, it's really easy to make - just the past simple of 'have' and the past participle.

The positive - make it with **'had' + the past participle** (usually made by adding 'ed' to the infinitive, but a few verbs have [irregular past participles](#)).

- I **had been** (I'd been)
- You **had gone** (you'd gone)
- She **had met** (she'd met)
- He **had played** (he'd played)
- It **had rained** (it'd rained)
- We **had bought** (we'd bought)
- They **had studied** (they'd studied)

The short form for 'had' is 'd'.

(Be careful not to confuse it with 'would'. Would is followed by the infinitive - 'I'd go', whereas had is followed by the past participle - 'I'd gone').

For the negative just add **'not'**:

- I **had not been** (I hadn't been)
- You **had not gone** (you hadn't gone)
- She **had not met** (she hadn't met)
- He **had not played** (he hadn't played)



- It **had not rained** (it hadn't rained)
- We **had not bought** (we hadn't bought)
- They **had not studied** (they hadn't studied)

And to make a 'yes / no' question put '**had**' *before* the subject:

- **Had** I come?
- **Had** you eaten?
- **Had** she gone?
- **Had** it rained?
- **Had** he studied?
- **Had** we met?
- **Had** they left?

For '**wh**' questions put the question word at the beginning:

- **When** had I come?
- **Why** had you eaten?
- **Where** had she gone?
- **When** had it rained?
- **Why** had he studied?
- **How** had we met?
- **When** had they left?