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Past perfect grammar worksheets

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?