

1 The form of the past perfect is:

had + past participle

2 When you are talking about past time, you use the past perfect for something which happened earlier and has an effect on the time you are talking about.

I didn't go to the film with my wife because I **had** already seen it.
John wasn't at work because he **had had** a bad accident.

3 Often the past perfect refers to something which had happened very recently:

It was July. Karen **had** just passed her exams. I told Rosa I **had** just seen her mother at the shops.
I was feeling very tired because I **had** just finished work.

4 You use the past perfect for something which started earlier and was still going on at the time you are talking about:

I knew London very well.
I **had** lived there for five years.



He was her closest friend. He **had known** her since they were children.

or to talk about the time up to the time you are talking about:

A: In 1987 **had you been** to America before? B: No, but I **had been** to Canada.
I didn't know anything about rock'n roll. I **had** never heard of Elton John.

or for something which hadn't happened at the time you are talking about:

She wanted to borrow my book but I **hadn't** finished it.
I didn't know Henry. I **had** never met him before.

5 You use the past perfect continuous tense to talk about something which had been going on for some time:

We **had been travelling** for three hours.
She **had been watching** TV all day.

or for something that was still going on or something that was temporary:

I **had been reading** her book.
I was enjoying it very much.



I **had been working** as a ski instructor, but I was looking for a new job.

A Match the questions and answers:

- 1 Did you know Michael?
- 2 Where was Luis?
- 3 Did you go to the cinema last night?
- 4 Did you see James and Leila?
- 5 Were you feeling hungry?
- 6 Were you locked out?
- 7 Did you have any money left?
- 8 Did you know Paris well?

- a He had gone to the shops.
- b Yes. We had met many times before.
- c No. They had gone away for the day.
- d Yes. I hadn't eaten since breakfast.
- e Yes. I had forgotten my key.
- f No. I had spent everything.
- g Yes. I had been there twice before.
- h No. I hadn't finished my homework.

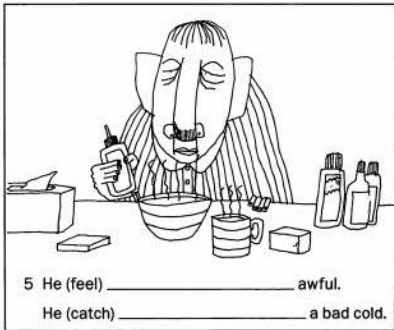
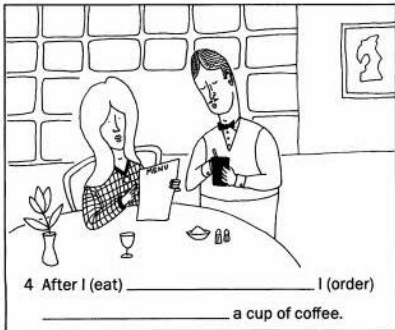
B Make sentences from these parts:

- 1 I couldn't understand very much
- 2 We didn't know where to go
- 3 I didn't enjoy the film very much
- 4 Everything was very wet
- 5 They knew they would be late
- 6 They were very brown
- 7 We were tired out
- 8 John couldn't open the door
- 9 I had to go to the bank
- 10 I couldn't see very well

- a because I had seen it before.
- b because they had been working in the sun.
- c because he had lost his key.
- d because I had spent all my money.
- e because I hadn't been learning English very long.
- f because I had forgotten my spectacles.
- g because we had lost our map.
- h because it had been raining all day.
- i because they had missed the last train.
- j because we had been working all day.

C Complete these sentences with one verb in the past simple and one in the past perfect:

- 1 I (go) went home as soon as I (finish) had finished work.
- 2 Everybody (go) _____ out for the day. There (be) _____ nobody at home.
- 3 Bill (live) _____ in Leeds ever since he (be) _____ a boy.



- 6 He (take) _____ the book back after he (read) _____ it.