ESOL E2 - Tenses - past perfect

# of 14 – Welcome

Welcome to this session on tenses.

This session will cover.

* The past perfect tense.

# of 14 – Past perfect

When we talk about an event that happened in the past, we sometimes want to refer back to something that happened before the event. To do this, we use the **past perfect** tense.

The form of the past perfect tense is: had + past participle.

# of 14 – Past perfect – example 1

Look at these two sentences.

* My phone ran out of battery.
* I lent my brother my phone charger.

Both of these actions happened in the past – we know this because the sentences are using the **past simple** tense.

* Now look at how we can combine these two sentences.

My phone ran out of battery because I had lent my brother my phone charger the day before.

We use the **past perfect** (had lent) because the action happened before another action in the past (my phone ran out of battery).

# of 14 – Past perfect – example 2

Let’s look at some more examples of the past perfect tense.

* I didn’t have my bus pass. I’d left it at home on the table.

The past perfect tense is used because the bus pass was left at home before I realised I’d lost it. The **past perfect** refers to an earlier past.

# of 14 – Past perfect – example 3

Compare these two sentences:

1. When I arrived at the gym, my friend had left.
2. When I arrived at the gym, my friend left.

In the first sentence, the past perfect tells us that my friend left *before* I arrived. In the second sentence, my friend left *at the same time* as I arrived.

# of 14 – Question 1

Is the following statement true or false?

“We only use the past perfect when we want to refer to a past that is earlier than another time we are talking about.”

Answer: **True**.

# of 14 – Question 2

“I couldn’t text you back yesterday because I had left my phone at Sophie’s house.”

Based on the information in the sentence above, which of these statements is true?

1. I can’t phone you now.
2. I could phone you yesterday.
3. I left my phone at Sophie’s house.

Answer: The correct answer is 3. “I left my phone at Sophie’s house.”

# of 14 – Question 3

“We ordered a pizza last night. By the time the pizza arrived we had been waiting for an hour.”

Based on the information in the sentence above, which of these statements is true?

1. We waited for an hour before the pizza came.
2. We waited for an hour after the pizza came.
3. We waited for an hour before we ordered a pizza.

Answer: The correct answer is 1. “We waited for an hour before the pizza came.”

# of 14 – Question 4

“We I couldn’t pay for my shopping yesterday because I’d left my wallet at home.”

Based on the information in the sentence above, which of these statements is true?

1. I left my wallet at home after I went shopping.
2. I left my wallet at home before I went shopping.
3. I left my wallet at home because I went shopping

Answer: The correct answer is 2. “I left my wallet at home before I went shopping.”

# of 14 – Question 5

“When I got to the cinema, the film had already started.”

Based on the information in the sentence above, which of these statements is true?

1. The film started before I got to the cinema.
2. The film started because I got to the cinema.
3. The film started after I got to the cinema.

Answer: The correct answer is 1. “The film started before I got to the cinema.”

# of 14 – Question 6

“When I got to the hotel, my friend had already checked in.”

Based on the information in the sentence above, which of these statements is true?

1. My friend checked in after I got to the hotel.
2. My friend checked in because I got to the hotel.
3. My friend checked in before I got to the hotel.

Answer: The correct answer is 3. “My friend checked in before I got to the hotel.”

# of 14 – Question 7

Which of these statements completes the sentence correctly?

“I was excited last night…”

1. because I had left my keys at the restaurant.
2. because I had been given a promotion at work.
3. my friend had already saved me a seat.

Answer: The correct answer is 2. “I was excited last night because I had been given a promotion at work.”

# of 14 – Question 8

Which of these statements completes the sentence correctly?

“I was bored…”

1. because he had a student card.
2. because I had already used my voucher.
3. because I had already seen the film.

Answer: The correct answer is 3. “I was bored because I had already seen the film.”

# of 14 – End

# Well done. You have completed this session on tenses.

# The past perfect tense.

# If you have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and ask your tutor for more help.