

Unit 22

Past perfect (I had done)

a Study this example situation:



I went to a party last week. Tom went to the party too. Tom went home at 10.30. So, when I arrived at 11 o'clock, Tom wasn't there.

When I arrived at the party, Tom wasn't there. He **had gone** home.

This is the *past perfect (simple)* tense:

I/he/she (etc.) **had** (= I'd/he'd/she'd etc.) **gone**
I/he/she (etc.) **hadn't gone**
had you/he/she (etc.) gone?

We form the past perfect with **had** + the *past participle* (**gone/opened/written** etc.). For irregular past participles see **Appendix 2**.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- I **arrived** at the party.

We use the past perfect to say that something had already happened before this time:

- **When I arrived** at the party, Tom **had** already **gone** home.

Here are some more examples:

- When I got home, I found that someone **had broken** into my flat and **had stolen** my fur coat.
- George didn't want to come to the cinema with us because he **had** already **seen** the film twice.
- It was my first time in an aeroplane. I was very nervous because I **hadn't flown** before.

b The past perfect (**I had done**) is the past of the present perfect (**I have done**). Compare these situations:

Present

I'm not hungry. I've just **had** lunch.

Past

I wasn't hungry. I'd just **had** lunch.