Past Perfect — Worksheet

30 exercises · Level B1–B2 · Answer key on the last page Free for classroom use

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Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

Choose the correct option (a–d) for each gap or question. Check yourself with the answer key on the last page.

1. When I arrived at the office, my boss _____ already _____ home.
   a) had … went b) has … gone c) had … gone d) had … go

2. She couldn't pay for lunch because she _____ her wallet at home.
   a) had leaved b) has left c) had leave d) had left

3. We _____ each other for years before we started working together.
   a) had knew b) have known c) had known d) had know

4. The kitchen was a mess: the children _____ a cake while I was out.
   a) have made b) had made c) had make d) had maked

5. I was nervous at the interview because I _____ for it at all.
   a) haven't prepared b) hadn't prepare c) didn't prepared d) hadn't prepared

6. She _____ the message, so she didn't know about the meeting.
   a) hadn't saw b) hasn't seen c) hadn't seen d) hadn't see

7. When you got your first job, _____ you ever _____ abroad?
   a) Had … been b) Have … been c) Had … went d) Has … been

8. He was upset because someone _____ his bike.
   a) had stole b) has stolen c) had steal d) had stolen

9. Ben was hungry because he _____ anything since lunch.
   a) hadn't ate b) hasn't eaten c) hadn't eaten d) didn't eat

10. We _____ the same car for twenty years when it finally broke down.
    a) had had b) have had c) had have d) has had

11. By the time we _____ at the party, most people _____ home.
    a) had arrived … went b) arrived … had gone c) arrive … had gone d) arrived … have gone

12. I got to the bakery at nine, but they _____ all the bread.
    a) had already sold b) have already sold c) had already sell d) has already sold

13. Until that summer, I _____ the sea — we lived far from the coast.
    a) have never seen b) had never saw c) had never seen d) was never seeing

14. It was the first time she _____ a speech in front of so many people.
    a) has given b) had given c) had gave d) gives

15. When I called Maria, she _____ in from work, so she was still wearing her coat.

a) has just come b) had just came c) just comes d) had just come

16. The streets were wet because it _____ during the night.

a) had rained b) has rained c) had rain d) rains

17. Sam came back to his desk and found that someone _____ his sandwich.

a) has eaten b) had eaten c) had ate d) eats

18. We got lost because we _____ to that part of town before.

a) haven't been b) hadn't be c) hadn't went d) hadn't been

19. How long _____ they _____ married when their first child was born?

a) have … been b) had … been c) had … be d) has … been

20. By the time the film ended, half the audience _____ asleep.

a) had fallen b) has fallen c) had fell d) falls

21. When we got to the hall, the concert _____, so we missed the first song.

a) started b) has started c) had start d) had started

22. When the phone rang, I _____ it at once.

a) had answered b) answered c) have answered d) was answering

23. We packed our bags, _____ a quick breakfast and drove to the airport.

a) had had b) have had c) had d) were having

24. When I _____ home, I saw that someone _____ the kitchen window.

a) came … had broke b) came … had broken c) came … has broken d) have come … had broken

25. When Tom _____ the email again, he realised he _____ the wrong date.

a) read … had written b) read … has written c) has read … had written d) read … had wrote

26. Which sentence is correct?

a) I didn't know who he was because we hadn't never met.
b) I didn't know who he was because we had never met.
c) I didn't know who he was because we had never meet.
d) I didn't know who he was because we had never meeted.

27. Which sentence is correct?

a) It was the first time I have flown.
b) It was the first time I had flew.
c) It is the first time I had flown.
d) It was the first time I had flown.

28. Which sentence is correct?

a) She locked the door, turned off the lights and went to bed.
b) She was locking the door, turned off the lights and went to bed.
c) She locked the door, had turned off the lights and went to bed.
d) She has locked the door, turned off the lights and went to bed.

29. Which sentence is correct?

a) By the time we arrived, the shop has closed.
b) By the time we had arrived, the shop closed.
c) By the time we arrived, the shop had closed.
d) By the time we arrived, the shop had close.

30. The bus left at seven, and Joe got to the stop five minutes later. Which sentence is correct?

a) When Joe reached the stop, the bus left.
b) When Joe reached the stop, the bus had left.
c) When Joe reached the stop, the bus has left.
d) When Joe had reached the stop, the bus left.

Answer Key

Past Perfect · Explanations are shortened — the full interactive version is at gramvoy.com/exercises/past-perfect/

1. c) had … gone

The boss left before I arrived, so the past perfect: had + the third…

2. d) had left

Leaving the wallet came before the moment she couldn't pay: had left.

3. c) had known

The years of knowing each other lasted up to a past moment, so had…

4. b) had made

The baking explains the mess I found later, so the past perfect had…

5. d) hadn't prepared

The negative past perfect is hadn't + participle: hadn't prepared.

6. c) hadn't seen

Not seeing the message came first, so hadn't + the participle seen (see…

7. a) Had … been

The question asks about the time before a past moment (when you got…

8. d) had stolen

The theft happened before he was upset, so the past perfect had stolen…

9. c) hadn't eaten

Since lunch measures a period up to a past moment (when he was hungry),…

10. a) had had

Twenty years up to a past moment take the past perfect, and the…

11. b) arrived … had gone

By the time + past simple gives the later moment (arrived); the main…

12. a) had already sold

The bread was sold before nine, when I got there, so had already sold —…

13. c) had never seen

Until that summer ends the period at a past moment, so the past perfect…

14. b) had given

After It was the first time… the standard form is the past perfect: had…

15. d) had just come

She came in a moment before my call, so had just come: just sits…

16. a) had rained

The rain came first and explains the wet streets later, so had rained.

17. b) had eaten

Someone ate the sandwich before Sam came back, so the past perfect had…

18. d) hadn't been

Before here means before the day we got lost, so the past perfect…

19. b) had … been

How long asks about a period that lasted up to a past moment (the…

20. a) had fallen

By the time the film ended is the later moment; falling asleep happened…

21. d) had started

We missed the first song, so the concert began before we arrived: had…

22. b) answered

The answering came right after the ringing, in the order it happened,…

23. c) had

The actions are told one after another, in order, so each takes the…

24. b) came … had broken

Coming home is the past moment of the story (came); the window was…

25. a) read … had written

Rereading the email is the past moment of the story (read); writing the…

26. b) I didn't know who he was because we had never met.

Had never + the participle met (meet – met – met) is correct.

27. d) It was the first time I had flown.

It was the first time… takes the past perfect: I had flown (fly – flew…

28. a) She locked the door, turned off the lights and went to bed.

The three actions are told in the order they happened, so all three…

29. c) By the time we arrived, the shop had closed.

By the time + past simple marks the later moment (we arrived); the…

30. b) When Joe reached the stop, the bus had left.

The bus left five minutes before Joe arrived, so the earlier event…