

Past perfect

Der Gebrauch dieser Zeitform entspricht weitgehend der vollendeten Vergangenheit (Plusquamperfekt) im Deutschen. Sie wird mit *had* und dem Partizip Perfekt (3. Form des Verbs) gebildet. Mit dem *past perfect* kann man über etwas sprechen, das bereits in der Vergangenheit vorbei war. Sie wird deswegen sehr oft zusammen mit dem *simple past* benutzt:

I realized that our suppliers had delivered the wrong products.

A spokesman told the press that the management had decided to relocate the factory.

Das Negativ wird mit *-n't* gebildet:

We reminded them that they still hadn't settled their account.

Die Frageform wirkt sehr gestelzt und formell und wird selten benutzt.

Had you worked there long before they went bankrupt?

Zusammen mit *if* kann das *past perfect* benutzt werden, um über Ereignisse in der Vergangenheit zu sprechen, die nicht geschehen sind.

If I had had better qualifications, I would have got that job.

A few days ago an old friend dropped in for a quick visit. She told me that she **had** just **read** a brilliant novel. She **had brought** it with her and I asked if I could borrow it. She gave me the book and asked me to return it as soon as possible because she **had promised** it to another friend. After she **had gone** I made myself comfortable on the sofa and opened the book. And there on the front inside cover was my name in my handwriting! I **had lent** it to one of my friends a couple of years ago.

a few days ago vor einigen Tagen | *drop in* vorbeischaun | *visit* Besuch | *brilliant* genial | *novel* Roman | *borrow* ausleihen/borgen | *return* zurückgeben | *as soon as possible* baldmöglichst | *promise* versprechen | *comfortable* bequem | *front inside cover* vordere Umschlaginnenseite | *handwriting* Handschrift | *lend* verleihen | *a couple of years ago* vor einigen Jahren

Past perfect progressive

Diese Zeitform (*had been* + *-ing*-Form des Verbs) wird sehr oft zusammen mit dem *simple past* benutzt. Man befindet sich in der Vergangenheit und bis zu diesem Zeitpunkt hat etwas, was schon vorher begonnen hatte, noch angedauert.

I talked to a candidate who had been waiting for over 40 minutes for his interview.

Mr Rutland had been talking for nearly an hour when I fell asleep.

Das Negativ wird mit *-n't* gebildet:

The boss suddenly asked me a question and I realized that I hadn't been paying attention.

Die Frageform sieht so aus:

"Had their sales been falling since the price rise?", I asked the general manager.

I once worked in the USA and I applied for a loan from my bank. I **had been living** in a small rented apartment and I wanted to buy an apartment which was nearer where I worked. Before she approved the loan, the bank manager asked me to sign an agreement. One of the provisions was that I had no criminal convictions and that I didn't deal in drugs. She was shocked when I told her that I couldn't sign it because I **had been dealing** in drugs since I first came to the USA. It was part of my job, I told her. I was a pharmacist at the local hospital.

apply for a loan ein Darlehen beantragen | *rented* gemietet | *buy* kaufen | *approve the loan* das Darlehen bewilligen | *sign* unterschreiben | *agreement* Vereinbarung | *provision* Verfügung/Klausel | *criminal conviction* Vorstrafe | *deal in ...* mit ... handeln | *shocked* entsetzt | *pharmacist* Apotheker(in)

