



Friend: How was your blind date?

Woman: Terrible!

Friend: Why? What happened?

Woman: First of all, he arrived half an hour late because he'd stopped at the shops to buy me flowers.

Friend: That was nice of him.

Woman: No, it wasn't! The flowers were ugly. But it got worse. We'd been to same school so he talked about school the whole time. It was so boring!

Friend: What did you do?

Woman: As soon as we'd finished the starters, I made an excuse and left.

Friend: That's sad. I feel sorry for him.

Presentation

Form the past perfect with *had* + past participle.

Affirmative and negative

I / You / We / They / He / She / It	had	arrived	on time.
	hadn't		

Yes/No questions

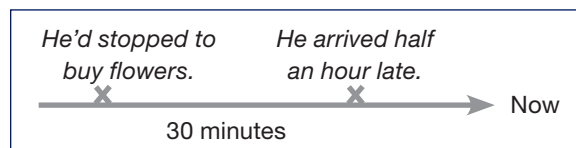
Had	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	had	a problem?
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Short answers

Yes,	I / you / we / they / he / she / it	had.
No,		hadn't.

TIP When speaking or writing informally, use 'd instead of *had*: *I'd arrived on time.*

Use the past perfect simple to make it clear that one action happened before another:



Linking words with the past perfect simple

We often use linking words with the past perfect simple and past simple:

*I'd arrived on time, **but** he arrived half an hour late.*

*He was late **because** he'd stopped at the shops to buy me flowers.*

*We'd been to same school, **so** he talked about school the whole time.*

***As soon as** we'd finished the starters, I made an excuse and left.*

Exercises

1 Match the questions and answers.

- 1 Had she lived abroad before she got the job in Hanoi?
 - 2 Why were your children at home yesterday morning?
 - 3 Why didn't you pay the plumber?
 - 4 Had they ever met before?
 - 5 Where had he been?
 - 6 What did they do after they'd checked in?
- a At the shops looking for flowers.
 - b Because he hadn't fixed the shower properly.
 - c No, she hadn't. She'd never lived outside of her own country.
 - d They hadn't gone to school because of the bad weather.
 - e They went sightseeing.
 - f Yes, they had, when they were at university.

2 Complete the conversation with the past perfect simple form of the verbs.

- A: How was your blind date?
- B: OK, but it didn't start very well. I was late and she ¹ 'd been (be) at the restaurant for half an hour when I arrived. I ² _____ (took) the bus, because my car ³ _____ (break down) in the morning. And then I ⁴ _____ (stop) on the way to buy her some flowers.
- A: Oh no. What did you talk about?
- B: Well, it was amazing because we ⁵ _____ (be) to same school and we ⁶ _____ (study) history together in the same class.
- A: What a coincidence! So, are you going to meet her again?
- B: I'm not sure. As soon as we ⁷ _____ (eat) the starters she had to leave.

3 Complete the sentences with the past simple and the past perfect form of the verbs in brackets. Use one past simple and one past perfect form in each sentence.

- 1 We ate dinner as soon as everyone had arrived. (eat / arrive)
- 2 I _____ the hotel in advance, but when we arrived they _____ a room for us. (book / not have)
- 3 They _____ hungry because they _____ all day. (be / not eat)
- 4 It _____ all night, so the children _____ to school. (snow / not go)
- 5 When Sue _____ the station, her bus _____. (reach / leave)
- 6 We _____ in the same office for three years, but I _____ to him for the first time at his leaving party last year. (work / speak)
- 7 We _____ anything because we _____ any money with us. (buy / not bring)
- 8 I _____ tired because I _____ awake since three o'clock in the morning. (feel / be)