



## Narrative Tenses: Sequencing Events: Past Perfect in Narratives

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. When I arrived at the cinema, the film \_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_.  
a) had / started  
b) has / started  
c) was / starting  
d) did / start
2. She was tired because she \_\_\_ all night.  
a) worked  
b) was working  
c) had worked  
d) has worked
3. By the time the ambulance arrived, the patient \_\_\_ consciousness.  
a) lost  
b) had lost  
c) was losing  
d) has lost
4. After he \_\_\_ the letter, he felt much better.  
a) read  
b) had read  
c) has read  
d) was reading
5. I \_\_\_ never \_\_\_ such a beautiful sunset before that day.  
a) had / seen  
b) have / seen  
c) was / seeing  
d) did / see
6. The thief \_\_\_ before the police arrived.  
a) escaped  
b) has escaped  
c) was escaping  
d) had escaped
7. When we got to the restaurant, we realized we \_\_\_ our wallet at home.  
a) left  
b) were leaving  
c) have left  
d) had left
8. He knew the area well because he \_\_\_ there as a child.  
a) had lived  
b) was living  
c) has lived  
d) lived
9. She \_\_\_ just \_\_\_ home when the phone rang.  
a) was / getting  
b) has / got  
c) had / got  
d) did / get
10. Before I met him, I \_\_\_ never \_\_\_ of his company.  
a) have / heard  
b) did / hear  
c) was / hearing  
d) had / heard
11. The streets were wet. It \_\_\_ during the night.  
a) rained  
b) was raining  
c) has rained  
d) had rained

12. By the time she graduated, she \_\_\_\_ three internships.  
a) completed  
b) was completing  
c) had completed  
d) has completed
13. He couldn't enter the building because he \_\_\_\_ his ID card.  
a) had forgotten  
b) forgot  
c) was forgetting  
d) has forgotten
14. After they \_\_\_\_ dinner, they went for a walk.  
a) finished  
b) were finishing  
c) had finished  
d) have finished
15. I recognized her immediately because we \_\_\_\_ before.  
a) met  
b) were meeting  
c) had met  
d) have met
16. When we arrived, we discovered that someone \_\_\_\_ into our house.  
a) broke  
b) had broken  
c) has broken  
d) was breaking
17. The patient \_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_ by the time the doctor came.  
a) did / recover  
b) has / recovered  
c) was / recovering  
d) had / recovered
18. She didn't want to watch the movie because she \_\_\_\_ it twice.  
a) saw  
b) had seen  
c) was seeing  
d) has seen
19. They sold the house where they \_\_\_\_ for twenty years.  
a) had lived  
b) were living  
c) lived  
d) have lived
20. By midnight, all the guests \_\_\_\_ home.  
a) went  
b) had gone  
c) have gone  
d) were going



## Answers

1. a) had / started
2. c) had worked
3. b) had lost
4. b) had read
5. a) had / seen
6. d) had escaped
7. d) had left
8. a) had lived
9. c) had / got
10. d) had / heard
11. d) had rained
12. c) had completed
13. a) had forgotten
14. c) had finished
15. c) had met
16. b) had broken
17. d) had / recovered
18. b) had seen
19. a) had lived
20. b) had gone



# Explanations

**1. “had / started” (a)**

Past Perfect 'had started' shows the film began before the arrival (Past Simple).

**2. “had worked” (c)**

Past Perfect explains the earlier action that caused the tiredness.

**3. “had lost” (b)**

'By the time' + Past Simple requires Past Perfect for the earlier event.

**4. “had read” (b)**

'After' + Past Perfect shows the reading happened first, then the feeling.

**5. “had / seen” (a)**

Past Perfect with 'never...before' shows lack of prior experience up to that past moment.

**6. “had escaped” (d)**

Past Perfect shows the escape happened before the arrival (Past Simple).

**7. “had left” (d)**

The leaving of the wallet happened before the realization, requiring Past Perfect.

**8. “had lived” (a)**

Past Perfect explains the background reason - living there happened before knowing it well.

**9. “had / got” (c)**

'Just' with Past Perfect shows she arrived home immediately before the phone rang.

**10. “had / heard” (d)**

'Before' + Past Simple requires Past Perfect for the earlier (lack of) experience.

**11. “had rained” (d)**

Past Perfect explains why the streets were wet - the rain happened earlier.

**12. “had completed” (c)**

'By the time' + Past Simple requires Past Perfect for accumulated experience before graduation.

**13. “had forgotten” (a)**

Past Perfect explains the earlier action that caused the present problem.

**14. “had finished” (c)**

'After' + Past Perfect clearly shows the dinner was completed before the walk.

**15. “had met” (c)**

Past Perfect shows the previous meeting that enabled recognition.

**16. “had broken” (b)**

Past Perfect shows the break-in happened before the discovery.

**17. “had / recovered” (d)**

'Already' with Past Perfect emphasizes the recovery was complete before the doctor's arrival.

**18. “had seen” (b)**

Past Perfect explains the reason - she had already watched it before.

**19. “had lived” (a)**

Past Perfect shows the living happened before the selling.

**20. “had gone” (b)**

'By midnight' + Past Perfect shows all departures were complete before that time.