



Past Perfect: Affirmative Sentences

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I ____ (finish) my homework before dinner.
a) finished
b) was finishing
c) have finished
d) had finished
- She ____ (leave) when we arrived at the party.
a) has left
b) had left
c) was leaving
d) left
- They ____ (eat) all the cake before I got there.
a) were eating
b) ate
c) had eaten
d) have eaten
- He ____ (study) English for five years before moving to London.
a) studied
b) has studied
c) was studying
d) had studied
- We ____ (see) that film twice before last night.
a) have seen
b) were seeing
c) had seen
d) saw
- The train ____ (already/depart) when we reached the station.
a) has already departed
b) had already departed
c) already departed
d) was already departing
- By the time the ambulance arrived, the patient ____ (recover).
a) recovered
b) was recovering
c) has recovered
d) had recovered
- I knew her face because we ____ (meet) before.
a) met
b) have met
c) were meeting
d) had met
- She was tired because she ____ (work) all day.
a) has worked
b) worked
c) had worked
d) was working
- The film ____ (start) by the time we got to the cinema.
a) was starting
b) had started
c) started
d) has started
- He told me he ____ (visit) Paris three times.
a) had visited
b) visited
c) was visiting
d) has visited

12. The children were happy because their father ____ (buy) them ice cream.
a) bought
b) had bought
c) was buying
d) has bought
13. I ____ (never/try) sushi before I went to Japan.
a) never tried
b) had never tried
c) have never tried
d) was never trying
14. By 2020, they ____ (live) in that house for twenty years.
a) were living
b) have lived
c) had lived
d) lived
15. She realised she ____ (forget) her keys at home.
a) was forgetting
b) had forgotten
c) has forgotten
d) forgot
16. When I checked my phone, my friend ____ (send) me five messages.
a) sent
b) has sent
c) was sending
d) had sent
17. The concert ____ (just/begin) when we finally arrived, so we missed the first song.
a) just began
b) had just begun
c) was just beginning
d) has just begun
18. By the time the wedding photos were taken, my brother ____ (already/grow) a full beard.
a) already grew
b) had already grown
c) was already growing
d) has already grown
19. I was nervous because I ____ (never/speak) in public before.
a) had never spoken
b) was never speaking
c) have never spoken
d) never spoke
20. The students ____ (complete) the test before the bell rang.
a) had completed
b) were completing
c) have completed
d) completed



Answers

1. d) had finished
2. b) had left
3. c) had eaten
4. d) had studied
5. c) had seen
6. b) had already departed
7. d) had recovered
8. d) had met
9. c) had worked
10. b) had started
11. a) had visited
12. b) had bought
13. b) had never tried
14. c) had lived
15. b) had forgotten
16. d) had sent
17. b) had just begun
18. b) had already grown
19. a) had never spoken
20. a) had completed



Explanations

1. “had finished” (d)

Use 'had finished' (Past Perfect) to show the homework was completed before another past event (dinner).

2. “had left” (b)

Use 'had left' to show she left before we arrived. The Past Perfect indicates the earlier action.

3. “had eaten” (c)

'Had eaten' shows the eating was completed before I arrived. 'Eaten' is the past participle of 'eat'.

4. “had studied” (d)

Use 'had studied' to emphasise the duration of study before the move to London.

5. “had seen” (c)

'Had seen' indicates viewing the film happened before 'last night'. 'Seen' is the past participle.

6. “had already departed” (b)

Use 'had already departed' to show the train left before we reached the station. 'Already' often appears with Past Perfect.

7. “had recovered” (d)

'By the time' signals that one action happened before another. The patient recovered before the ambulance arrived.

8. “had met” (d)

The meeting happened before I recognised her face. 'Had met' shows the earlier action.

9. “had worked” (c)

The working happened before she felt tired. Use Past Perfect to explain the cause of a past state.

10. “had started” (b)

'By the time' indicates the film started before our arrival. Past Perfect shows the earlier event.

11. “had visited” (a)

In reported speech, use Past Perfect. His visits happened before he told me.

12. “had bought” (b)

The buying happened before the children felt happy. 'Bought' is the past participle of 'buy'.

13. “had never tried” (b)

'Had never tried' shows no experience of sushi before the trip to Japan. 'Never' often pairs with Past Perfect.

14. “had lived” (c)

'By 2020' refers to a past time. Use Past Perfect to show duration up to that point.

15. “had forgotten” (b)

The forgetting happened before she realised. 'Forgotten' is the past participle of 'forget'.

16. “had sent” (d)

The messages were sent before I checked. 'Sent' is the past participle of 'send'.

17. “had just begun” (b)

Use 'had just begun' (Past Perfect with 'just') because the concert starting is the earlier event that explains why we missed the first song. 'Was just beginning' doesn't work here since we missed the song — the beginning was already complete.

18. “had already grown” (b)

'By the time' + Past Simple triggers Past Perfect. 'Had already grown' shows the beard was fully grown before the photos were taken. 'Already' emphasises the completion.

19. “had never spoken” (a)

'Had never spoken' explains the reason for past nervousness—no prior experience.

20. “had completed” (a)

Use Past Perfect to show the test was finished before the bell. The earlier action uses 'had + past participle'.