



Past Perfect: Negative Sentences

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I ____ (not/finish) my work when my boss called.
a) haven't finished
b) hadn't finished
c) wasn't finishing
d) didn't finish
- She ____ (not/see) the email before the meeting.
a) hadn't seen
b) wasn't seeing
c) hasn't seen
d) didn't see
- They ____ (not/arrive) when the concert began.
a) didn't arrive
b) haven't arrived
c) weren't arriving
d) hadn't arrived
- He ____ (not/eat) anything all day, so he was very hungry.
a) hadn't eaten
b) didn't eat
c) hasn't eaten
d) wasn't eating
- We ____ (not/book) a hotel, so we had to sleep in the car.
a) haven't booked
b) didn't book
c) weren't booking
d) hadn't booked
- The shop was closed because the owner ____ (not/return) from holiday.
a) didn't return
b) wasn't returning
c) hadn't returned
d) hasn't returned
- I couldn't enter the building because I ____ (not/bring) my ID card.
a) didn't bring
b) hadn't brought
c) wasn't bringing
d) haven't brought
- She failed the test because she ____ (not/study) enough.
a) didn't study
b) hasn't studied
c) hadn't studied
d) wasn't studying
- By midnight, they ____ (not/find) a solution to the problem.
a) hadn't found
b) weren't finding
c) haven't found
d) didn't find
- The children were upset because their parents ____ (not/come) to the show.
a) hadn't come
b) weren't coming
c) didn't come
d) haven't come
- He ____ (never/fly) before his trip to Australia.
a) never flew
b) was never flying
c) has never flown
d) had never flown



Answers

1. b) hadn't finished
2. a) hadn't seen
3. d) hadn't arrived
4. a) hadn't eaten
5. d) hadn't booked
6. c) hadn't returned
7. b) hadn't brought
8. c) hadn't studied
9. a) hadn't found
10. a) hadn't come
11. d) had never flown
12. d) hadn't heard
13. b) hadn't watered
14. b) hadn't met
15. a) hadn't expected
16. c) hadn't made
17. c) hadn't checked
18. b) hadn't realised
19. d) hadn't saved
20. a) hadn't told



Explanations

1. “hadn't finished” (b)

Use 'hadn't finished' to show the work was not complete before the call. Negative Past Perfect = had not (hadn't) + past participle.

2. “hadn't seen” (a)

'Hadn't seen' shows she did not read the email before the meeting started.

3. “hadn't arrived” (d)

Use Past Perfect negative to show they were not there when the concert started.

4. “hadn't eaten” (a)

The lack of eating explains his hunger. Past Perfect negative shows what didn't happen before a past state.

5. “hadn't booked” (d)

'Hadn't booked' explains why they had no accommodation—the booking didn't happen beforehand.

6. “hadn't returned” (c)

Use Past Perfect negative to explain the cause of a past situation.

7. “hadn't brought” (b)

Not bringing the ID happened before the attempt to enter. 'Brought' is the past participle of 'bring'.

8. “hadn't studied” (c)

The lack of studying (Past Perfect negative) explains the failed test (Past Simple).

9. “hadn't found” (a)

'By midnight' refers to a past deadline. They still hadn't found a solution at that point.

10. “hadn't come” (a)

The parents' absence (Past Perfect negative) caused the children's upset feeling.

11. “had never flown” (d)

'Had never flown' expresses no flying experience before the Australia trip. 'Never' creates a negative meaning.

12. “hadn't heard” (d)

Use 'hadn't heard' because 'realised' triggers Past Perfect for the earlier state. I realised (Past Simple) that I hadn't heard (Past Perfect) — the not hearing came before the realisation.

13. “hadn't watered” (b)

Not watering (earlier action) caused the flowers to die (later result).

14. “hadn't met” (b)

The reunion was the first time they met. Before that, she hadn't met her cousin.

15. “hadn't expected” (a)

'Were shocked' (Past Simple) is the result. 'Hadn't expected' (Past Perfect negative) explains the earlier cause — our lack of expectation before his arrival led to the shock.

16. “hadn't made” (c)

Not making a reservation beforehand explains why the restaurant was full when we arrived.

17. “hadn't checked” (c)

Not checking the map (before leaving) led to getting lost.

18. “hadn't realised” (b)

'Before I sat down' (Past Simple) provides the past anchor. 'Hadn't realised' (Past Perfect) shows the lack of awareness existed before that moment.

19. “hadn't saved” (d)

Not saving enough money (Past Perfect negative) prevented the house purchase.

20. “hadn't told” (a)

The secret-keeping happened before her departure. Past Perfect negative shows the earlier non-action.