



Past Perfect: Mixed Practice

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I was surprised because I ____ (not/expect) to see her there.
a) hadn't expected
b) didn't expect
c) haven't expected
d) wasn't expecting
- ____ you ____ (ever/eat) Korean food before that dinner?
a) Were ... ever eating
b) Had ... ever eaten
c) Did ... ever eat
d) Have ... ever eaten
- By the time we ____ (reach) the hotel, it ____ (already/get) dark.
a) reached ... had already got
b) had reached ... had already got
c) reached ... already got
d) had reached ... already got
- She looked familiar. I was sure I ____ (meet) her somewhere before.
a) met
b) had met
c) have met
d) was meeting
- After he ____ (apologise), she ____ (forgive) him.
a) had apologised ... had forgiven
b) had apologised ... forgave
c) apologised ... had forgiven
d) apologised ... forgave
- The test was easy because I ____ (already/revise) everything thoroughly.
a) already revised
b) had already revised
c) was already revising
d) have already revised
- He told me he ____ (never/see) such a beautiful sunset.
a) never saw
b) was never seeing
c) had never seen
d) has never seen
- ____ the match ____ (start) when you turned on the TV?
a) Did ... start
b) Was ... starting
c) Has ... started
d) Had ... started
- I ____ (just/sit down) to eat when the doorbell ____ (ring), so I hadn't even touched my food.
a) just sat down ... had rung
b) just sat down ... rang
c) had just sat down ... had rung
d) had just sat down ... rang
- We couldn't buy tickets because they ____ (sell out).
a) were selling out
b) sold out
c) had sold out
d) have sold out
- A: Had they finished the project? B: No, they ____.
a) didn't
b) weren't
c) hadn't
d) haven't

12. The children were upset. Their parents ____ (promise) to take them to the park, but it ____ (start) raining.
- a) promised ... had started
b) had promised ... started
c) promised ... started
d) had promised ... had started
13. I didn't know the answer because I ____ (not/read) the chapter yet.
- a) hadn't read
b) haven't read
c) didn't read
d) wasn't reading
14. She was tired. She ____ (work) overtime every day that week.
- a) had worked
b) worked
c) has worked
d) was working
15. ____ you ____ (already/leave) when I called?
- a) Have ... already left
b) Did ... already leave
c) Were ... already leaving
d) Had ... already left
16. The streets were wet. It ____ (rain) earlier that morning.
- a) rained
b) had rained
c) has rained
d) was raining
17. After we ____ (check in), we ____ (go) straight to our room.
- a) had checked in ... had gone
b) checked in ... had gone
c) had checked in ... went
d) checked in ... went
18. He wondered why she ____ (not/reply) to his message.
- a) hadn't replied
b) wasn't replying
c) hasn't replied
d) didn't reply
19. By 2015, she ____ (live) in London for a decade.
- a) lived
b) had lived
c) was living
d) has lived
20. The detective realised that the suspect ____ (lie) about his alibi.
- a) was lying
b) had lied
c) lied
d) has lied



Answers

1. a) hadn't expected
2. b) Had ... ever eaten
3. a) reached ... had already got
4. b) had met
5. b) had apologised ... forgave
6. b) had already revised
7. c) had never seen
8. d) Had ... started
9. d) had just sat down ... rang
10. c) had sold out
11. c) hadn't
12. b) had promised ... started
13. a) hadn't read
14. a) had worked
15. d) Had ... already left
16. b) had rained
17. c) had checked in ... went
18. a) hadn't replied
19. b) had lived
20. b) had lied



Explanations

1. “hadn't expected” (a)

Past Perfect negative: The lack of expectation (earlier) explains the surprise (main event).

2. “Had ... ever eaten” (b)

Form Past Perfect questions with Had + subject + past participle to ask about experience before a past time.

3. “reached ... had already got” (a)

'By the time' + Past Simple, Past Perfect. Darkness came before arrival.

4. “had met” (b)

Past Perfect for an earlier meeting that explains recognition in the narrative.

5. “had apologised ... forgave” (b)

After + Past Perfect, Past Simple. Apology first, then forgiveness.

6. “had already revised” (b)

'Already' with Past Perfect emphasises that revision was fully completed before the test. The earlier preparation explains why the test felt easy.

7. “had never seen” (c)

In reported speech, use Past Perfect to describe experience up to that past point.

8. “Had ... started” (d)

Ask whether the match began before you turned on the TV.

9. “had just sat down ... rang” (d)

'Just' with Past Perfect shows something happened moments before the main event. 'Hadn't even touched my food' confirms the Past Perfect pattern — sitting down had only just occurred before the interruption.

10. “had sold out” (c)

Selling out happened before we tried to buy. Past Perfect explains the obstacle.

11. “hadn't” (c)

Short answer to Past Perfect question: 'No, they hadn't.'

12. “had promised ... started” (b)

Promise happened before (Past Perfect). Rain starting is the main narrative event (Past Simple).

13. “hadn't read” (a)

'Yet' in Past Perfect negative: I hadn't read it up to that point.

14. “had worked” (a)

Working overtime throughout the week (Past Perfect) explains tiredness.

15. “Had ... already left” (d)

Ask about departure timing relative to the phone call.

16. “had rained” (b)

Earlier rain explains the wet streets in the narrative.

17. “had checked in ... went” (c)

After + Past Perfect, Past Simple. Check-in first, then going to the room.

18. “hadn't replied” (a)

The non-reply (earlier) caused his wondering. Use Past Perfect in reported thoughts.

19. “had lived” (b)

'By 2015' is a past reference point. Past Perfect shows duration up to that time.

20. “had lied” (b)

The lying happened before the detective realised. Past Perfect for the earlier deception.