



Past Perfect: Past Simple, Past Continuous & Past Perfect

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. While I ____ (walk) home, I realised I ____ (forget) my phone at work.
a) walked ... had forgotten
b) was walking ... forgot
c) walked ... forgot
d) was walking ... had forgotten
2. She ____ (read) the book that her friend ____ (recommend) to her the previous month.
a) read ... had recommended
b) was reading ... recommended
c) read ... recommended
d) was reading ... had recommended
3. When the police ____ (arrive), the thief ____ (escape) and the victim ____ (lie) on the ground.
a) arrived ... had escaped ... was lying
b) arrived ... escaped ... lay
c) arrived ... was escaping ... lay
d) were arriving ... had escaped ... was lying
4. I ____ (watch) TV when I ____ (remember) that I ____ (not/call) my mother.
a) was watching ... remembered ... hadn't called
b) watched ... remembered ... didn't call
c) watched ... was remembering ... hadn't called
d) was watching ... had remembered ... didn't call
5. They ____ (dance) at the party when suddenly the lights ____ (go) out.
a) were dancing ... were going
b) danced ... were going
c) were dancing ... went
d) danced ... went
6. The children ____ (play) in the garden. They ____ (not/notice) that it ____ (start) to rain.
a) were playing ... didn't notice ... had started
b) played ... didn't notice ... started
c) played ... weren't noticing ... had started
d) were playing ... hadn't noticed ... started
7. He ____ (drive) to work when he ____ (see) an accident that ____ (just/happen).
a) was driving ... saw ... had just happened
b) drove ... saw ... happened
c) was driving ... was seeing ... just happened
d) drove ... had seen ... was just happening
8. While she ____ (cook) dinner, her husband ____ (come) home with flowers he ____ (buy).
a) cooked ... had come ... was buying
b) was cooking ... came ... had bought
c) was cooking ... was coming ... bought
d) cooked ... came ... bought

9. The students ____ (not/pay) attention because the teacher ____ (explain) something they ____ (already/learn).
- didn't pay ... was explaining ... already learned
 - weren't paying ... was explaining ... had already learned
 - weren't paying ... explained ... had already learned
 - didn't pay ... explained ... already learned
10. I ____ (meet) John at the café. He ____ (wait) for me and ____ (already/order) coffee.
- was meeting ... was waiting ... already ordered
 - met ... waited ... had already ordered
 - met ... was waiting ... had already ordered
 - was meeting ... waited ... already ordered
11. It ____ (rain) heavily when we ____ (leave) the cinema. We ____ (not/bring) an umbrella.
- was raining ... left ... hadn't brought
 - rained ... were leaving ... didn't bring
 - rained ... left ... didn't bring
 - was raining ... were leaving ... hadn't brought
12. The phone ____ (ring) while she ____ (have) a shower. She ____ (miss) an important call.
- rang ... had ... missed
 - was ringing ... was having ... missed
 - was ringing ... had ... had missed
 - rang ... was having ... missed
13. By the time I ____ (wake up), my parents ____ (leave) and my sister ____ (make) breakfast.
- was waking up ... had left ... was making
 - woke up ... had left ... was making
 - was waking up ... left ... made
 - woke up ... left ... was making
14. The tourists ____ (take) photos when they ____ (realise) their guide ____ (disappear).
- were taking ... were realising ... disappeared
 - were taking ... realised ... had disappeared
 - took ... had realised ... was disappearing
 - took ... realised ... disappeared
15. She ____ (smile) because she ____ (think) about something funny that ____ (happen) earlier.
- was smiling ... thought ... had happened
 - was smiling ... was thinking ... had happened
 - smiled ... thought ... happened
 - smiled ... was thinking ... happened
16. While the teacher ____ (write) on the board, a student ____ (ask) about homework they ____ (not/do).
- wrote ... asked ... didn't do
 - was writing ... asked ... hadn't done
 - wrote ... was asking ... didn't do
 - was writing ... was asking ... hadn't done
17. I ____ (not/sleep) well because I ____ (have) a nightmare. I ____ (eat) too much cheese before bed.
- didn't sleep ... had ... had eaten
 - wasn't sleeping ... had ... had eaten
 - didn't sleep ... was having ... had eaten
 - wasn't sleeping ... was having ... ate

18. The dog ____ (bark) loudly. Someone ____ (enter) the house while we ____ (sleep).
- a) was barking ... entered ... were sleeping
 - b) barked ... entered ... slept
 - c) was barking ... had entered ... were sleeping
 - d) barked ... had entered ... were sleeping
19. When I ____ (check) my email, I ____ (see) that someone ____ (send) me an important message while I ____ (be) away.
- a) was checking ... saw ... sent ... was
 - b) was checking ... had seen ... had sent ... was
 - c) checked ... had seen ... sent ... was being
 - d) checked ... saw ... had sent ... was
20. When we went outside, we saw that the storm ____ (damage) many houses. Trees ____ (fall) onto cars that ____ (park) on the street.
- a) had damaged ... had fallen ... were parked
 - b) damaged ... were falling ... had parked
 - c) damaged ... fell ... parked
 - d) had damaged ... fell ... were parked



Answers

1. d) was walking ... had forgotten
2. d) was reading ... had recommended
3. a) arrived ... had escaped ... was lying
4. a) was watching ... remembered ... hadn't called
5. c) were dancing ... went
6. a) were playing ... didn't notice ... had started
7. a) was driving ... saw ... had just happened
8. b) was cooking ... came ... had bought
9. b) weren't paying ... was explaining ... had already learned
10. c) met ... was waiting ... had already ordered
11. a) was raining ... left ... hadn't brought
12. d) rang ... was having ... missed
13. b) woke up ... had left ... was making
14. b) were taking ... realised ... had disappeared
15. b) was smiling ... was thinking ... had happened
16. b) was writing ... asked ... hadn't done
17. a) didn't sleep ... had ... had eaten
18. c) was barking ... had entered ... were sleeping
19. d) checked ... saw ... had sent ... was
20. a) had damaged ... had fallen ... were parked



Explanations

- 1. “was walking ... had forgotten” (d)**
Past Continuous 'was walking' sets the scene. Past Perfect 'had forgotten' shows the phone was forgotten earlier (before realising).
- 2. “was reading ... had recommended” (d)**
Past Continuous 'was reading' describes an ongoing action. 'The previous month' anchors the recommendation firmly in an earlier time, requiring Past Perfect 'had recommended'.
- 3. “arrived ... had escaped ... was lying” (a)**
Past Simple for police arrival. Past Perfect for earlier escape. Past Continuous for the scene they found.
- 4. “was watching ... remembered ... hadn't called” (a)**
Past Continuous for background. Past Simple for the moment of remembering. Past Perfect for the earlier non-action.
- 5. “were dancing ... went” (c)**
Past Continuous for ongoing action interrupted by Past Simple (sudden event). No Past Perfect needed here.
- 6. “were playing ... didn't notice ... had started” (a)**
Past Continuous sets the scene. Past Simple for not noticing. Past Perfect shows rain started before they noticed.
- 7. “was driving ... saw ... had just happened” (a)**
Driving is the background (Past Continuous). Seeing is the main event (Past Simple). The accident happened moments before (Past Perfect with 'just').
- 8. “was cooking ... came ... had bought” (b)**
Cooking is background (Continuous). Coming home is main event (Simple). Buying happened earlier (Perfect).
- 9. “weren't paying ... was explaining ... had already learned” (b)**
Both not paying attention and explaining are ongoing (Continuous). Prior learning explains their lack of interest (Perfect).
- 10. “met ... was waiting ... had already ordered” (c)**
Meeting is the main event (Simple). Waiting is what he was doing (Continuous). Ordering happened before I arrived (Perfect).
- 11. “was raining ... left ... hadn't brought” (a)**
Raining is background weather (Continuous). Leaving is the action (Simple). Not bringing happened earlier when we left home (Perfect).
- 12. “rang ... was having ... missed” (d)**
Ringing interrupted the shower (Simple interrupts Continuous). Missing is the result (Simple). No Perfect needed —sequence is clear.
- 13. “woke up ... had left ... was making” (b)**
Waking is reference point (Simple). Parents' departure was earlier (Perfect). Sister's cooking was ongoing when I woke (Continuous).

14. “were taking ... realised ... had disappeared” (b)

Taking photos is the scene (Continuous). Realising is the moment (Simple). Disappearing happened before they noticed (Perfect).

15. “was smiling ... was thinking ... had happened” (b)

Smiling and thinking are simultaneous ongoing states (Continuous). The funny event was earlier (Perfect).

16. “was writing ... asked ... hadn't done” (b)

Writing is background (Continuous). Asking interrupts (Simple). Not doing homework was earlier (Perfect).

17. “didn't sleep ... had ... had eaten” (a)

Not sleeping well is the main fact (Past Simple). Having the nightmare is a single completed event that night (Past Simple). Eating cheese was even earlier — before bed (Past Perfect).

18. “was barking ... had entered ... were sleeping” (c)

Barking is the scene found (Continuous). Entry happened earlier, causing the barking (Perfect). Sleeping shows what we were doing (Continuous).

19. “checked ... saw ... had sent ... was” (d)

Checking and seeing are the main sequence (Simple). Sending happened earlier (Perfect). Being away is a simple past state.

20. “had damaged ... had fallen ... were parked” (a)

'We saw that' introduces reported perception, requiring Past Perfect for the events discovered. The storm's damage and the trees falling happened before we went outside. 'Were parked' describes the state of the cars.