



PAST PERFECT

formation and use

FORMATION

had+Ved/VIII

Affirmative

I had worked

He had worked

She had worked

You had worked

We had worked

They had worked

Interrogative

Had I worked?

Had he worked?

Had she worked?

Had you worked?

Had we worked?

Had they worked?

Negative

I had not worked

He had not worked

She had not worked

You had not worked

We had not worked

They had not worked

USE

1) The Past Perfect denotes an action completed before a certain moment in the past. The moment may be indicated by another past action expressed by a verb in the Past Indefinite or by an adverbial phrase.

After she **had cried** out she felt easier.

The definite moment need not necessarily be expressed in the same sentence as the action expressed by the Past Perfect.

Everybody noticed how sad she was the whole evening. She **had got** an unpleasant letter.

For the sake of emphasis the word order may be inverted.

No sooner **had she laid** herself down than she heard the prolonged trill of the front- door bell.

The Past Perfect is frequently used with the adverbs *just, already, yet*.

2) Sometimes the Past Perfect does not denote priority but only the completion of the action.

He waited until she **had found** the latch-key and opened the door.

3) The past perfect is used to denote an action which began before a definite moment in the past, continued up to that moment and was still going on at that moment. It is called Past Perfect Inclusive. Here *for* and *since* is used.

the Past perfect Inclusive is used

1. With verbs not admitting of the Continuous form.

Examination convinced him that the deacon was dead-**had been** dead *for* some time.

2. In negative sentences

Those two **had not spoken** to each other *for* three days and were in a state of rage.

3. With non-terminative verbs such as to work, to live, to study, to teach, to travel, to last. (here Past Perfect Continuous is possible.)

The ride **had lasted** about ten minutes, when the truck suddenly swerved to a halt.
