



Worksheet

Name :

Subject:

Grammar

Class:

11th grade

Date:

Unit 4 – Lesson 1A

Narrative Tenses: Past Perfect Simple & Past Perfect Continuous

When we tell a story about the past, we usually use:

- **Past Simple** for the *main events*
- **Past Perfect Simple** and **Past Perfect Continuous** to give *background information*

1. Past Perfect Simple

Form:

subject + had (not) + past participle

Uses:

1. **Duration of states before a specific point in the past**
She had been blind for 12 years when she started her journey.
2. **Completed earlier actions relevant to the time of the story**
He wrote about a spot that he had discovered on the surface of Venus.
3. **Experiences before a specific point in the past**
By the time he died, he had written a lot of letters.

2. Past Perfect Continuous

Form:

had (not) + been + present participle

Uses:

1. **Duration of actions that began earlier and continued to the time of the story**
He had been studying bird migration for years.
2. **Earlier past processes relevant to the main events in the story**
He had an accident with a pair of scissors that he had been playing with.

3. Linking Words & Time Phrases

Often used with Past Perfect tenses:

when, after, because, as, before, by, by the time

Examples:

- *By the age of 15, he had completed his system.*
- *He missed that event because he had been in hospital for two weeks.*

4. Additional Notes

- Use **Past Perfect Continuous** when you want to focus on the **duration of an activity** or explain a **past result**:
She was tired because she had been flying for hours.
- **Do not use Past Perfect Continuous** with repeated actions when giving the number of times something happened:
✓ *She had been visiting him regularly.*
✗ *She had been visiting him three times.*

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