

Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there. He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had + past participle (gone/seen/finished etc.)**.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had ...**):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

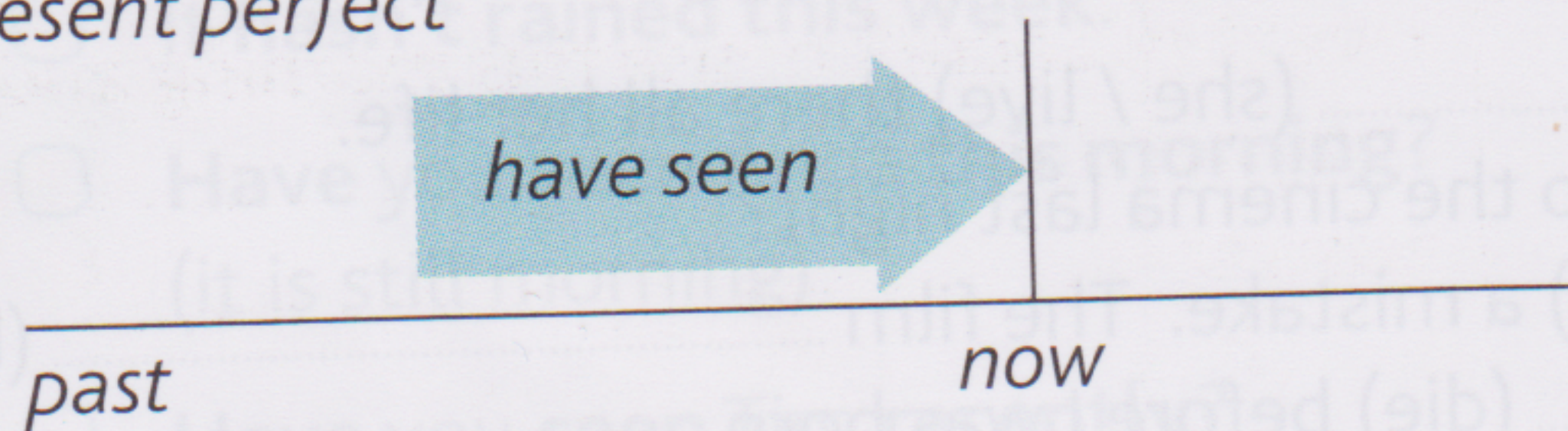
Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

B

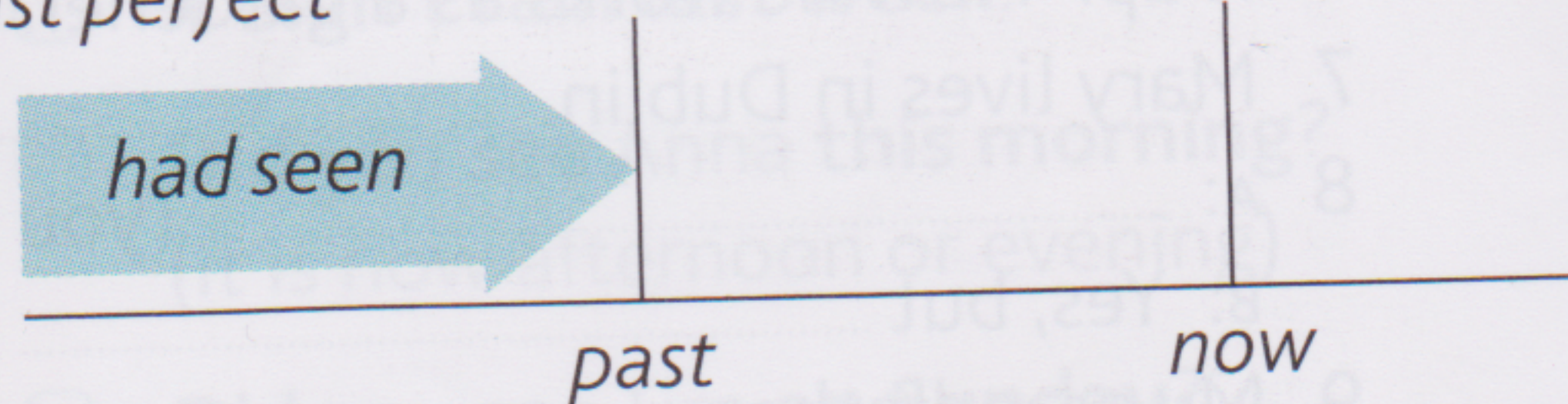
Compare the *present perfect (have seen etc.)* and the *past perfect (had seen etc.)*:

Present perfect



- Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect



- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple (left, was etc.)* and the *past perfect (had left, had been etc.)*:

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned. She **was** at her mother's house.

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned. She **had been** at her mother's house.

15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.
(she / go / out) *She had gone out.*
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.
(it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.
(the film / already / start)
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.
(she / just / have / breakfast)

15.2 For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.
(fly) *He'd never flown before.*
- 2 Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.
(hear) I before.
- 3 Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.
(play) He
- 4 Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.
(be there) We

15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night. (b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u> (c) We called the police. | } | We arrived at work in the morning and found that <i>somebody had broken</i> into the office during the night. So the police. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 (a) Laura went out this morning. (b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u> (c) There was no answer. | } | I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but no answer. out. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago. (b) <u>I met him the same day.</u> (c) He looked very well. | } | I met Jim a few days ago. just holiday. very well. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails. (b) She never replied to them. (c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u> (d) He was very surprised. | } | Yesterday Kevin from Sally. very surprised. lots of emails, but |

15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 1 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he *had gone* (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we (see) a car which (break) down, so we (stop) to help.