Past perfect exercises

10 practice questions • Padworth Learning Studio

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The film was already over when we arrived. It ___ before we got there.

had finished / has finished / finishes

My answer: _____

2. She was hungry because she ___ lunch.

has not eaten / had not eaten / does not eat

My answer: _____

3. Choose the correct form.

had went / had go / had gone

My answer: _____

4. ___ you finished before the teacher returned?

Had / Have / Did had

My answer: _____

5. I recognised the place because I ___ it before.

had visited / have visit / am visiting

My answer: _____

6. By the time we arrived, the film ___.

will start / had started / has started

My answer: _____

7. She could not unlock the door because she ___ her key.

had lost / has lost / will lose

My answer: _____

8. Choose the correct past perfect form.

They had not finish. / They have not finished yesterday. / They had not finished.

My answer: _____

9. ___ you ___ the book before you saw the film?

Did / reading / Had / read / Have / read

My answer: _____

10. When I reached the shop, it had closed. What happened first?

The shop closed. / I reached the shop. / Both actions must have been simultaneous.

My answer: _____

Answer key & explanations

1. **had finished** — The finish happened before our arrival, another past event.

2. **had not eaten** — Not eating lunch came before feeling hungry in this past story.

3. **had gone** — The past participle of go is gone.

4. **Had** — Past perfect questions begin with had before the subject.

5. **had visited** — The earlier visit explains the later past recognition.

6. **had started** — Had started places the start before our arrival in the past.

7. **had lost** — The loss happened before the later past problem of being unable to unlock the door.

8. **They had not finished.** — Past perfect uses had plus a past participle, including in negatives.

9. **Had / read** — Use had before the subject and the past participle read for this earlier past experience.

10. **The shop closed.** — Past perfect had closed marks the closing as earlier than the arrival.