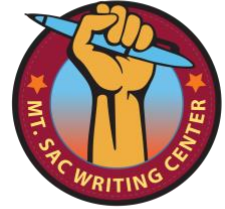


# The Writing Center

## DLA: The Past Perfect & Past Perfect Progressive Tenses



This DLA is a writable PDF form. You can enter your answers directly into this document.

**YOU MUST DOWNLOAD AND SAVE THIS FILE TO YOUR COMPUTER.**

**Do not complete this form in a web browser. You will not be able to save your work.**

Student Name:

### Important Note

To get completion credit for this DLA, make sure you complete all the required activities. If you'd like help while working on a specific DLA, you can meet with a specialist at the Writing Center. Keep in mind that you might need to schedule a second appointment to review your work, check your understanding, and get your completion credit. You can only review **ONE** DLA per appointment. (Check the last section of this DLA for information on making your appointment and receiving completion credit for your work).

### Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

## The Past Perfect Tense

Use the past perfect tense to express:

### 1. An action that happened/didn't happen **BEFORE** another action/specific time in the past

The past perfect expresses actions that happened before another action and/or specific time in the past. If you have two actions, put the action that happened first in the **past perfect** and the action that happened second in *simple past*.

Example: The movie **had started** when I *arrived*.

Example: She **hadn't finished** school before she *got* the job.

Example: *By*\* the time we *got* to the station, the bus **had left**. *By*\* 1995, I **had** already **moved** here.

*\*By is another word for before.*

### 2. To show the cause of a past action

When you want to talk about **why** something happened, use the past perfect.

Example: Kim *had* a car accident **because she hadn't gotten** enough sleep the night before.

### 3. Past Perfect vs. Simple Past

If the past perfect action occurred at a specific time, you can use the simple past instead of the past perfect when *before* or *after* is used in the sentence. The words *before* and *after* actually tell you what happens first, so the past perfect is optional. For this reason, both sentences below are correct.

Example: She **had visited** her relatives once in 1999 *before* she *moved* in with them in 2001.

Example: She **visited** her relatives once in 1999 *before* she *moved* in with them in 2001.

### 4. Non-action verbs that were on-going before a specific time/ another action in the past

Because non-action verbs cannot be put into a progressive form, use the past perfect for those verbs if they occurred *before* another action or a specific time in the past.

Example: He **had loved** me for a year *before* we *dated*.

Example: By 2010, I **had owned** a house for eight years.

## How to Form the Past Perfect {had + past participle}

Examples: I **had never flown** *before* I went to Hawaii. He **had already given** me the check by noon.

\*Notice that adverbs like *already*, *never*, *just*, come after **had**.

Do not use the past form of the verb. You need to use the past participle, which sometimes looks like the past form, but at other times it does not. Here are some verbs and their past participles:

Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle	Simple Form	Past Participle
awake	awoken	get	gotten	see	seen
be	been	give	given	sell	sold
become	become	go	gone	send	sent
begin	begun	grow	grown	sing	sung
blow	blown	have	had	sit	sat
break	broken	hear	heard	sleep	slept
buy	bought	keep	kept	speak	spoken
catch	caught	know	known	stand	stood
choose	chosen	lay	laid	steal	stolen
come	come	leave	left	sweep	swept
do	done	lie	lain	swim	swum
draw	drawn	lose	lost	take	taken
drink	drunk	make	made	teach	taught
drive	driven	mean	meant	tell	told
eat	eaten	meet	met	think	thought
fall	fallen	pay	paid	throw	thrown
feel	felt	ride	ridden	understand	understood
find	found	rise	risen	wear	worn
fly	flown	run	run	win	won
forget	forgotten	say	said	write	written

# The Past Perfect Progressive Tense

Use the past perfect progressive (also called past perfect continuous) tense to express:

## 1. An action that was in progress BEFORE another action/specific time in the past

The past perfect progressive is used for actions that were going on before another action and/or specific time in the past. If you have two actions, put the action that started first in the **past perfect progressive** and the action that happened second in *simple past*.

Example: *By the time I came to the U.S., I **had been studying** English for two years.*

Example: She **had been driving** for twenty minutes *when* her tire *blew out*.

## 2. To show the cause of a past action

When you want to talk about **why** something happened, use the past perfect progressive for on-going actions.

Example: Kim *had* a car accident **because she *had been driving* for 12 hours non-stop.**

## How to Form the Past Perfect Progressive

{**had + been + verb-ing**}

Example: The students **had been waiting** for twenty minutes *when* the professor finally *arrived*.

\*Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*) are usually not in a progressive form.

Example: He **had loved** her for a year before they *dated*. (NOT *had been loving*)

## How to Make Questions and Negative Statements

### Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive

#### Negative Statements:

Start with the *subject*, then **had**, followed by **not**, and then *the rest of the verb*.

Examples:

I had left.

He had paid his fees.

You had been working.

I **had not left**.

He **had not paid** his fees.

You **had not been working**.

## Questions:

Start with the helper (**had**), then the *subject*, and then **the rest of the verb**. You can add a wh- word at the beginning if you need it.

Examples:

She had finished the project.

I had already started it.

They had been working on it.

*Had she finished* the project?

*Had you started it?*

*Had they been working* on it?

What *had she finished*?

What *had* you started?

How long *had they been working*?

## Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## □ 1. Review the Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive Tenses

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

- a. In what situations do we use the past perfect tense?
- b. In what situations do we use the past perfect progressive tense?

## □ 2. Online Quiz

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/pastperfecttensesdlaquiz> and take the DLA quiz. You must score at least 75% on the quiz before meeting with a specialist. After you complete the task, please take a screenshot of the page that has your score and show it to your specialist. Do not exit the quiz until you take the screenshot.

## Choose 3a or 3b Below

### ☐ 3a. Practice with Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find and write down examples of sentences that contain the following:

1. An action that happened before another action in the past:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. A past action and its cause:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. An action that happened before a specific time in the past:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. An action that was in progress before another action in the past:

If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).

### □ 3b. Create Sentences

Look at the timeline of Nelson Mandela's life below. Write five different sentences using the **past perfect** or the **past perfect progressive**. Also, remember to include the **simple past** when you use words like *by the time*, *before*, or *when*.

- **Example:** By the time Mandela **married** Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela, he **had started** the first black law firm in South Africa.

Year	Event
1918	Nelson Mandela is born.
1952	Mandela starts the first black law firm in South Africa.
1958	Mandela marries Winnie Nomzamo Madikizela.
1961	Mandela helps found the guerilla faction of the African National Congress.
1964	Mandela is sentenced to life imprisonment for conspiring to overthrow the state.
1990	Mandela is released from prison.
1993	Mandela wins the Nobel Peace Prize with F.W. de Klerk for ending apartheid peacefully.
1994	Mandela becomes the first black president of South Africa.
1996	Mandela and his wife, Winnie, divorce.
2004	Mandela retires from public life.
2013	Mandela dies from a respiratory infection at age 95.

#### □ 4. Review the DLA/Receive Completion Credit

1. Go to [EAB Navigate](#) and make an appointment (online or in-person).
2. Attend your session and be prepared to explain your understanding of the information you've learned in the DLA. Consider the main concept you learned and how you might use this in your future assignments/classes.
3. If your professor asks you to provide proof, you can review the "appointment summary report" through EAB Navigate (app or desktop). You will find all Writing Center appointments under "appointment summary reports" (app or desktop). Look for the summary report for your DLA appointment. This is where your writing specialist will indicate the title of your DLA and state whether it is "completed" or "not completed." If it is marked as "not completed," book a follow up appointment to complete.

Note: Appointment summary reports are also sent weekly to your instructor on record. If there is an issue, please contact us at [writingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:writingcenter@mtsac.edu) or (909) 274-5325.

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center's website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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