

Simple past and past perfect

We use the simple past to describe actions and states in a completed period of time. When a person performs one action after another, we can omit the subject in the sentence.

He stood on a chair and put one of his hands in his pocket.

We use the past perfect tense when we want to express that one action in the past happened before another action also in the past. The action that happened first is in the past perfect, and the one that happened after that is in the simple past.

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Past Perfect Simple Past Now

When I woke up, my mother had prepared breakfast.

Task 1: Complete the following sentences using the correct form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. When Meg _____ (arrive) at the concert, it _____ (start).
2. After Jane _____ (finish) the book, Peter _____ (call) her.
3. Before Susan _____ (go) out with a friend, she _____ (clean) her room.
4. Before I _____ (have) breakfast, I _____ (take) a shower.

Task 2: Put the verbs into the correct tense simple past or past perfect.

Mike (1) _____ (wake up) early in the morning. He (2) _____ (not sleep) very well the night before. A strange noise in the garden (3) _____ (keep) him awake. Now it (4) _____ (be) six o'clock and Ted (5) _____ (get up) and (6) _____ (take) a cold shower to wake up. Then he (7) _____ (make) himself a nice cup of coffee. When Ted (8) _____ (look out) of the kitchen window, he (9) _____ (not believe) his eyes. There (10) _____ (be) a bear in his garden! He (11) _____ (search) Ted's garden for food last night. Ted (12) _____ (knock) on the window. The bear (13) _____ (hear) that and (14) _____ (run) away. But what a mess the bear (15) _____ (make) in the garden!