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English division: group 4

Past perfect simple:

The past perfect simple expresses past time that precedes another past time.

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

Had gone home is the past perfect simple.

Forms of the past perfect simple: I, we, they, you had (I'd- etc.) +past participle

He, she, it +had (he'd- etc.)+past participle

In the example: when Sarah arrived at the party, Paul had gone home, the starting point is when Sarah arrived at the party (an action already expressed in the past). To express an action which happened before another past action (Paul had gone home), we use the past perfect.

Examples (**When we got home last night, we found**) (**that somebody had broken into the flat**).

Second action- simple past

First action- past perfect simple

They never received the books which they had ordered.

Which they had ordered: first action (in terms of time) past perfect simple

They never received: second action (in terms of time) simple past

Exercises: in each of the following sentences use either the simple past or the past perfect simple

- 1- Almost all the guests(leave) by the time we(arrive)
- 2- He (never be) sick before he (go) into the jungle.
- 3- He (wonder) whether he (leave) his wallet at home.
- 4- The secretary (not leave) until she (finish) her work.
- 5- The police (ask) the boy why he (steal) the money.
- 6- The company (not hire) him because he (lie) about his past experience.
- 7- When she (finish) her work, she (go) to the movies.
- 8- He (can) still remember the good times he (have) as a child.
- 9- By the time we (get) to the airport, our plane (already leave)
- 10- I (hear) many things about this country before I (come) here.

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

- 1- You went to Jill'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- You went to the cinema last night. You arrived at the cinema late. (the film/ already/begin)
- 4- I was very pleased to see Tim again after such a long time. (I / not see/ him for five years).
- 5- I offered Sue something to eat but she wasn't hungry. (She/ just/have/ breakfast).

Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened –so (1) happened before (2), (2) before (3) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes we need the past perfect.

A- Somebody broke into the office

During the night

We arrived at work in the morning.

We called the police

B- We arrived at work in the morning and found that somebody (break) into the office.
So.....

A- Ann went out.

I tried to phone her this morning

There was no answer.

B- -I tried to phone Ann this morning but.....no answer. She (go out).

A- Jim came back from holiday a few days ago.

I met him the same day.

He looked very well.

I met Jim a few days ago. He.....just.....

B- He.....

A- Kevin wrote to Sally many times.

She never replied to his letters.

Yesterday he had a phone call from her.

He was very surprised.

B- Yesterday Kevin.....Hevery surprised.
He.....many times but she.....