

ESL Worksheet: Past Simple, Progressive Perfect

Choose the correct answer.

Q1 - He bought the car after he'd got his new job

- These actions happened at the same time
 He got the job first

Q2 - He was going to bring the film in this afternoon, but forgot it in the end

- He didn't bring the film even though he had planned to
 He didn't bring the film because he had no plan to

Q3 - It was the first time she had tried a virtual reality game

- The past perfect is used because it is the first of two past actions
 The past perfect is used because 'it was the first time' takes the past perfect

Q4 - While I was coming to work this morning the shops weren't open

- These two verbs describe a simultaneous event and state
 The first verb describes a long action and the second a short one

Q5 - The bus drivers had been on strike for two weeks before they managed to reach an agreement with the management

- The past perfect stresses the length of the strike
 The past perfect shows that the problems were easily resolved

Q6 - While you were studying at university, I was doing a proper job

- These two actions were at the same time
 The studying was interrupted by doing the proper job

Q7 - Had you ever worked so hard before you joined the bank?

- The past perfect is used to show that the person is still working hard
- The past perfect is used to emphasise the difference between the bank and work before joining it

Q8 - I was having a bath when the dog and cat started fighting

- The speaker was out of the bath when the fight happened
- The speaker was still in the bath when the fight happened

Q9 - I'd been waiting for half an hour before the train finally arrived

- The speaker was still waiting when the train arrived
- The speaker had given up waiting before the train arrived

Q10 - He got up and went to the shops

- The two actions happened simultaneously
- They happened in sequence

Q11 - I'd read it long before it became successful

- The speaker hadn't finished reading it when it became successful
- The speaker had finished reading it when it became successful

Q12 - Someone had already finished their work before I arrived

- The past perfect is used to give show the difference in time between the two actions
- The past perfect is used to show that the speaker is negative about the person

Q13 - I was going to go to the party

- The speaker went to the party
- The speaker didn't go to the party