

Learn English with the Bible

Advanced Lesson 3 - Saul Becomes a Follower of the Lord

Acts 9:1-19

Writing Exercise

For each question, you will see two events. One event came before the other, but both of them happened in the past. Write one sentence that combines both events. Use the past perfect for the event that happened first, and use the past simple for the event that happened second. There can be more than one way to write a correct answer. The first one is done for you as an example.

You may add any kind of time expression, such as "always," "never," "already," and "by the time..." You can also use a conjunction like "and" or "but" to link your clauses together. If you add "before" or "after" to your sentence, you may not have to use the past perfect.

Sample Question

First action: my sister _____ (fly) to Sidney.

Second action: she _____ (not be) on a plane before that.

Possible answers:

My sister flew to Sidney last week, but she had never been on a plane before.

My sister had not been on a plane before she flew to Sidney last week.

1. First action: the students _____ (write) essays last week.

Second action: the teacher _____ (return) the essays.

Answer:

2. First action: John _____ (leave) university.

Second action: I _____ (meet) John.

Answer:

3. First action: Maria _____ (cook) dinner.

Second action: John _____ (come) home.

Answer:

4. First action: My parents _____ (eat) dinner.

Second action: We _____ (arrive) at my parents' house.

Answer:

5. First action: Tonio _____ (see) the movie.

Second action: Tonio _____ (not want) to go to the theater.

Answer:

6. First action: My uncle _____ (not sleep) well.

Second action: He _____ (feel) a little sick.

Answer:

7. First action: Lucrezia _____ (break up) with Jody.

Second action: Lucrezia _____ (go) to Japan.

Answer:

8. First action: I _____ (buy) the tickets online.

Second action: We _____ (not need) to stand in line at the stadium.

Answer:

9. First action: She _____ (buy) a t-shirt.

Second action: She _____ (give) it to me for my birthday.

Answer:

You will find the answers on the next page.

Answers:

Your sentence might be different than any of the possible answers, and still be correct. Think of other ways you can use the past perfect in your sentences. There are many ways to say the same thing.

1. Sample question was done for you.
2. First action: the students _____ (write) essays last week.
Second action: the teacher _____ (return) the essays.
The teacher returned the essays that the students had written last week.
3. First action: John _____ (leave) university.
Second action: I _____ (meet) John.
I met John after he had left university.
I met John **after** he left university. (because we used "after," either is correct.)
4. First action: Maria _____ (cook) dinner.
Second action: John _____ (come) home.
Maria had already cooked dinner by the time John came home.
By the time John came home, Maria had already cooked dinner.
(you can add an adverb of time after "had" to give extra information to your sentence)
5. First action: My parents _____ (eat) dinner.
Second action: We _____ (arrive) at my parents' house.
We arrived at my parents' house, but they had already eaten dinner.
We arrived at my parents' house after they had eaten dinner.
My parents had eaten dinner by the time we arrived at their house.
6. First action: Tonio _____ (see) the movie.
Second action: Tonio _____ (not want) to go to the theater.
Tonio had already seen the movie so he didn't want to go to the theater.
Tonio didn't want to go to the theater because he had already seen the movie.
7. First action: My uncle _____ (not sleep) well.
Second action: He _____ (feel) a little sick.
My uncle felt a little sick because he hadn't slept well.
My uncle hadn't slept well, and he felt a little sick.

8. First action: Lucrezia _____ (break up) with Jody.

Second action: Lucrezia _____ (go) to Japan.

Lucrezia had broken up with Jody by the time she went to Japan.

Before she went to Japan, Lucrezia broke up with Jody.

9. First action: I _____ (buy) the tickets online.

Second action: We _____ (not need) to stand in line at the stadium.

I had bought the tickets online so we didn't need to stand in line at the stadium.

We didn't need to stand in line at the stadium because I had bought the tickets online.

10. First action: She _____ (buy) a t-shirt.

Second action: She _____ (give) it to me for my birthday.

She gave me a t-shirt that she had bought for my birthday.

She had bought a t-shirt that she gave me for my birthday.