

Perfect Tenses

Learn!

Perfect Aspect

The perfect aspect is used to relate a previous event with a main event or point in time.

Past Perfect (*had* + past participle)

When I got to school,
I realized I had left my
homework in my bedroom.
I had wanted a laptop
for two years before my
parents finally got me one.



Present Perfect (*have/has* + past participle)

I have drunk three cans of
soda this morning.
We have lived in this town
for six months.



Future Perfect (*will have* + past participle)

We will have been at this
school for six years by the
time we graduate.
I won't have finished the
project by Monday.



Work it out!

1 Put each letter on the correct line above.

- Describes a past event in an unfinished period of time.
- Describes a future event that will be finished before another future event.
- Describes a past event that took place before another event in the past.

Use!

1 Use the verbs in parentheses in the correct tense.

- In 1967 a South African man received the first heart transplant from a young woman who _____ (die) in a car accident.
- When Peter got home he realized he _____ (lose) his wallet.
- Nina _____ (visit) the factory many times this year.
- By the time we get to the theater, the movie _____ (begin).
- When I got home I wanted some pie, but Mary _____ already _____ (eat) the last piece.
- I _____ (finish) with my homework by the time you arrive.
- They _____ (play) tennis together twice this week.
- By the end of this century, man _____ (land) on Mars.

Perfect tenses

We use the simple past to refer to actions that occurred at a definite past time and that are finished.

We use the past perfect to refer to actions in the past that occurred before other past actions.

We use the present perfect to refer to actions in the past that still affect the present or to actions that began in the past and are not finished.

We use the future perfect to refer to actions that will be completed at a specific time in the future.

Task 1: Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parenthesis.

1. I knew all the answers because before the class I _____ (buy) a book on verb tenses.
2. By next year I will have _____ (begin) high school.
3. Our teacher has _____ (teach) us verbs for over a year.
4. By this time next week I will have _____ (win) the spelling bee contest.
5. We _____ (finish) our homework when the lights went out.
6. Jack _____ (lived) across the street for three years.

Task 2: Choose the appropriate options to complete the sentences.

1. In the evenings, I often play chess with my neighbor. I _____ chess with him since I _____ to live here ten years ago.
a. have been playing / came b. had played / have come
2. This bicycle _____ in our family for fourteen years. My father used it for the first five years, my brother rode it for the next five and I _____ it for the last four.
a. will have had / have had b. has been / have had
3. Luisa _____ her driver's test three times because she's so bad at parking. But she _____ parking since last week and I think she has gotten a little better at it.
a. has failed / has been practicing b. have failed / has practiced
4. By the time we _____ home, mom _____ dinner for us.
a. have arrived / has cooked b. arrive / will have prepared
5. I have been waiting for the prices of the real estate to come down before buying a house, but I think I _____ too long and the prices _____ to go up again.
a. have waited / are beginning b. have been waiting / will have begun

