

Tenses

Past perfect

I **had watched** the news before I went to bed.

Tenses

Past perfect

to have - **had** - had

The past perfect is used to describe an action or event that happened before another action or event in the past. It is formed by using the auxiliary verb **had** followed by the **past participle** of the main verb.

a) is used to describe a sequence of events in the past:

*By the time I arrived at the party (2), they **had** already **left** (1).*

b) is used to express a past condition that is no longer true:

*She **had lost** her job as a waitress before she found a new one as a flight attendant.*

c) is used to narrate stories or past events:

*John **had** always **dreamed** of becoming an astronaut. He studied engineering and physics in college.*

d) is used after "wish" and "if only" to express regrets:

*I wish/if only I **had studied** harder for the exam.*

e) is used in reported speech to report someone's words in the past:

Direct speech: He said, "*I have finished the report.*"

Reported speech: He said that he **had finished** the report.

Direct: He said, "*I finished the report yesterday.*"

Reported: He said that he **had finished** the report the day before.

1. Halbjahr 2026
Englisch Grammar Refresher for You B1-B2
261-40660, Do, 17.00 – 18.00 Uhr

The past perfect

Complete with the correct form of the verbs in the past tense/ past perfect:

When I (to arrive) at the cinema, the film (already, to start).

*When I **arrived** at the cinema, the film **had already started**.*

Susan (to look) tired because she (to work) all day.

*Susan **looked** tired because she **had worked** all day[^].*

She (not to pass) the exam. If she (only to work) harder!

*She **did not pass** the exam. If she **had only worked** harder!*

(you, to know) this before he (to tell) you?

***Had you known** this before he **told** you?*

“I have always been a careful driver”, she said.

*She said that she **had always been** a careful driver.*

He said, “I had dinner with my boss last week”.

*He said that he **had had** dinner with his boss the week before.*

Er wollte schon immer die Pyramiden sehen. Gestern hat er einen Flug nach Kairo gebucht.

He had always wanted to see the Pyramids. He booked a flight to Cairo yesterday.

Put into reported speech:

Note the change of the time designation

Translate:

Tenses

Future tenses (future 1)

Angelika **will meet** her friends at the weekend.

Maria **is going to meet** her friends at the weekend.

Stefanie **is meeting** his friends at 6 o'clock.

Sabine's party **starts** at 6 o'clock.

Future tenses (future 2)

Jens will be back for dinner after he **will have finished** his homework.

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Future 1

Note: Though a bit old-fashioned the use of **shall** for the 1st person singular and plural is still in use:

*I **shall** be happy.*
*We **shall** see.*

The **will future** is used to talk about hopes, fears, expectations, promises, and the like. It is also used to talk about future actions that we are not in control of, and with phrases beginning *I think*.

I will be happy to help you.

Sabine says she will think about it.

I think it will snow tomorrow.

The **going to future** is used to talk about things you intend, decide or arrange to do. It is also used to describe events you know will happen for sure.

Jens is going to invite Maria to his birthday party.

We are going to visit our parents tomorrow.

The **present progressive** is used to describe things that are planned or definitely decided.

What are you doing next week?

I'm seeing my boss tomorrow.

The **present simple** is used for arrival and departure times and the times of future events.

My flight leaves at 6 o'clock

The concert starts at 8.

Tenses

Future 1

Note: The differences between the **will/shall** future, **going to** future and **present progressive/continuous** are marginal.
The decision which of the three versions to use is mainly dependent on the speaker's personal assessment of the future situation.

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Future tenses (future 2)

Michal will be back for dinner after he **will have finished** his homework.

Tenses

Future 2

The **future 2**, also known as the **future perfect**, is used to express an action that will be completed or finished at some point in the future **before** another action takes place. It is formed by using "will have" or "shall have" followed by the past participle form of the verb.

The future 2 is commonly used in the following situations:

1. Predictions about the future: To predict or speculate about an action that will have been completed by a certain time in the future.

By the time you arrive, I will have finished my homework.

2. Actions that will be completed before a specific point in the future.

She will have graduated from college by the time she turns 25.

3. Past assumptions about future events: To talk about past assumptions regarding actions to be completed in the future (rare).

I thought they would have arrived by now.

4. Regrets or criticism about something not being completed in the future: It can express disappointment or regret about an action that will not have been completed by a certain time in the future.

By next year, I will have lived here for ten years, but I still won't have visited all the nearby attractions.

Note: "going to" and the present progressive form of verbs are **not** used to form the future 2.

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The future

Complete with the correct form of the verbs in brackets to express the future:

I think it (to rain) tomorrow.

*I think it **will rain** tomorrow.*

By this time next year, she (graduate) from university.

*By this time next year, she **will have graduated** from university.*

David (to meet) customers this afternoon.

*David **is meeting** customers this afternoon.*

The train (to leave) at 7.30 pm.

*The train **leaves** at 7.30 pm.*

He (not, to come).

*He **won't/will not** come.*

Das wird nicht funktionieren.

*That **won't/will** not work..*

Wenn er kommt, werden wir noch nicht zu Abend gegessen haben.

*When he arrives **we won't/will not have had** dinner yet.*

Davon wird ihm noch nichts erzählt worden sein.

*He **will not have been told** anything about it..*

Translate: