

Past perfect: simple and progressive

1a Complete the grammar rules with the words in the box.

been had

- We make the past perfect simple with _____ + past participle.
- We make the past perfect progressive with *had* + _____ + present participle.

b Match the rules with the examples below.

a *I had been teaching for many years.*

b *I started writing after I had finished my exams.*

2 Read the text about Jay White. Underline all the examples of the past perfect simple and circle all the examples of the past perfect progressive.

Jay White had always wanted to be a writer. He wrote his first story when he was five and entered it in a contest – it won! After he had won the contest, he started writing every day. His first book was published in 1979 when he was only 12. "I'd been writing for seven years, but I was still really excited when my first book came out."

Since then, he has written more than 30 books. Last year, he entered another contest. He chose to enter a book he had written when he was only nine. Why did he choose this particular book? "I'd been thinking about this story for a long time. Although I was only nine when I wrote it I thought it was one of the best stories I had ever created." We all wish Jay the best of luck in the contest.

3 Choose the correct words.

- I didn't understand / hadn't understood* what was happening because I *didn't listen / hadn't been* listening.
- I *didn't pay / hadn't been paying* attention in class, so I *got / had got* all the answers wrong in the test today.
- She *left / had left* by the time we *arrived / had arrived*.
- She *was / had been* upset when we arrived because I *forgot / had forgotten* to tell her we'd be late.
- He *waited / had been waiting* for three years when she finally *said / had said* she would marry him.

4 Complete the sentences using the correct past perfect simple or past perfect progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

- By the time he was 29, he _____ (write) ten books.
- I _____ (enter) contests for years before I won.
- She _____ never _____ (read) a play by Shakespeare until she went to college.
- I _____ (think) of what to write, when suddenly I had a great idea for a story.
- Before I was fifteen, I _____ not _____ (enjoy) reading.
- It was New Year's Day and it _____ (snow) for around twelve hours.