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Basics. The Past Perfect Tense

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Adverb | Clause | Participle | Past tense | Verb | Verb tense | Perfect tense | Simple tense | Word order

1. Help the detective complete her field report by choosing the correct verb tense.

By the time Inspector Vance finally kicked down the door, the notorious jewel thief _____ with the diamond.

Select one.

A) has already escaped
B) already escaped
C) had already escaped
D) is already escaping

2. Complete the detective's highly dramatic notes about the missing cookies by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

I examined the empty jar and deduced that the thief _____ all the chocolate chip cookies before I even woke up. The crumbs on the sofa proved that my dog, Buster, _____ the entire heist!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) ate
B) had eaten
C) has eaten

Blank 2

A) masterminded
B) had masterminded
C) masterminds

3. Choose the correct phrase to finish the stranded traveler's text message to their mom.

When we finally reached the boarding gate with our overly expensive coffees, we realized that the airplane _____ without us.

Select one.

A) already left
B) has already left
C) had already left
D) was already leaving

4. Help the host complete her diary entry about a disastrous dinner party.

When the guests finally _____ at 8 PM, I realized with horror that my dog _____ the entire roast beef.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) arrive
B) arrived
C) were arriving

Blank 2

A) had eaten
B) ate
C) has eaten

5. Complete the culinary student's tragic diary entry by selecting the grammatically correct option.

The chocolate cake was completely ruined because I _____ two cups of salt instead of sugar!

Select one.

- **A)** have added
- **B)** had added
- **C)** was adding
- **D)** add

6. Read the host's tragic diary entry about a ruined dinner party.

Select ALL the sentences that correctly use the Past Perfect to explain the evening's disasters!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The guests were starving because I had burned the roast.
- **B)** I suddenly realized that I had forgotten to buy any dessert.
- **C)** The guests were angry because I have forgotten the wine.
- **D)** I realized that I had forget to buy the appetizers.

7. Complete the amateur chef's tragic diary entry by dragging the correct verb forms into the blanks.

By the time I took the pizza out of the oven, it _____ completely to a crisp. I realized with horror that I _____ to set the timer!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** burned
- **B)** had burned
- **C)** was burning

Blank 2

- **A)** forgot
- **B)** had forgotten
- **C)** have forgotten

8. Help the frustrated traveler complete his text message to a friend.

When I got to the airport, the plane _____ off. I _____ a flight before today, but leaving my passport on the kitchen counter really ruined my perfect streak!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had already taken
- **B)** already took
- **C)** has already taken

Blank 2

- **A)** had never missed
- **B)** never missed
- **C)** have never missed

9. Help the detective finish her report! She needs to document what happened *before* she got to the crime scene.

Select ALL the sentences that correctly use the Past Perfect tense to describe these earlier events.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** When I arrived, the thief had already escaped through the bathroom window.
- **B)** The suspect had vanished by the time I reached the bank.
- **C)** When I arrived, the thief has already escaped through the window.
- **D)** The suspect had vanishing by the time I reached the bank.

10. Complete the detective's official report regarding the museum heist.

The security guard admitted that he _____ asleep at his desk. By the time he woke up, the thieves _____ the priceless painting.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** had fallen
- **B)** fell
- **C)** has fallen

Blank 2

- **A)** had already stolen
- **B)** already stole
- **C)** were already stealing

11. Review the stranded traveler's text messages to their friend.

Select ALL the messages that correctly use the Past Perfect and place the adverbs (*just*, *already*) in the right spot to describe their terrible luck at the airport!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I missed my flight because the plane had just taken off.
- **B)** By the time I found my passport, the gate had already closed.
- **C)** By the time I reached the desk, the gate has already closed.
- **D)** I missed my flight because the plane had taken just off.

12. Help the unfortunate traveler explain to their boss why they missed the conference by dragging the correct verbs to the gaps.

When I finally arrived at the gate, the plane _____. It turned out someone _____ my luggage while I was buying a very expensive coffee!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** already left
- **B)** had already left
- **C)** has already left

Blank 2

- **A)** stole
- **B)** had stolen
- **C)** was stealing