Past Perfect Tense

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

- Identify verbs in the past perfect tense.
- Use past perfect verbs correctly in sentences.
- Write sentences using the past perfect tense.

Preparation

Materials Needed

- Chart paper and markers
- Forming the Past Perfect Verb Tense (BLM 7)
- Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling text and the practice text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson. If necessary, copy the verb chart and sentence frames from “Strategies to Support ELs” on chart paper.

1. Focus

Explain Past Perfect Tense

Say: We use the past perfect tense when we want to describe an action that took place before another past action happened. Listen to this sentence: “Ditanu had been a ten-year-old waif on the streets before Belshunu found him.” The sentence is about things that happened in the past. Ditanu was a waif on the streets before he was found by Belshunu. Past perfect verbs are made up of the past participles of a verb, plus the verb had. Past participles of regular verbs end in -ed. Past participles of irregular verbs are irregular and need to be learned.

Model Using Past Perfect Tense

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

1. Khaba had removed enough bricks, so he was able to peer inside the tomb.
2. Mery had taken a deep breath and then followed her brother into the darkness.

Modeling Text

Read sentence 1. Say: In this sentence, the past perfect verb phrase is had removed. This verb phrase was formed using the words had and the past participle of the verb remove, which is removed. The past perfect verb tells me about an action that happened before another past action. Before Khaba peered into the tomb, he first removed the bricks.

Read sentence 2. Say: In this sentence, the past perfect verb is had taken. This is formed by using the past participle of the verb take along with the verb had. Past participles of regular verbs such as remove end in -ed, just like their past tense form. Past participles of irregular verbs such as take are also irregular and need to be learned. This verb tells me that Mery took a deep breath before she followed her brother. Writers use past perfect tenses in historical narratives to help distinguish between events that happened at different times in the past.
2. Rehearse

Practice Using the Past Perfect Tense

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Ask students to work with partners to identify the past perfect tense of the verbs in parentheses. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense (Now)</th>
<th>Past Tense (Yesterday)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I walk.</td>
<td>I walked.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I play.</td>
<td>I played.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I talk.</td>
<td>I talked.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with the Past Perfect Tense

Invite pairs to share the past perfect tense of the verbs. Discuss their responses using the following prompts:
- What is the past perfect form of the verb in this sentence?
- How did you form the past perfect form?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that the past perfect tense of a verb tells us that an action happened before another action happened in the past. The word had is always used when forming the past perfect tense of a verb. Remember to use past perfect tenses when you write historical narratives to show that specific events happened before other events in the past.

If you would like to give students additional practice using the past perfect tense, have them complete BLM 7.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers and the sentences they wrote on BLM 7. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback. Ask students to share what they learned about forming the past perfect tense.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Since forming the past perfect tense of verbs might be too difficult for beginning ELs, provide extra support in forming past tense verbs. Concentrate on one or two familiar regular verbs. Create a two-column chart with the column heads “Present” and “Past.” Write simple sentences with present and past tense verbs on the chart. Read the words with students and use them in sentences as you pantomime actions to build understanding.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the practice sentences. Model and write the following sentence frames on chart paper to help students talk about past perfect verbs:

The past perfect verb is ______.
The past perfect verb is formed by ______.