This month's winning photo:



The Iceberg

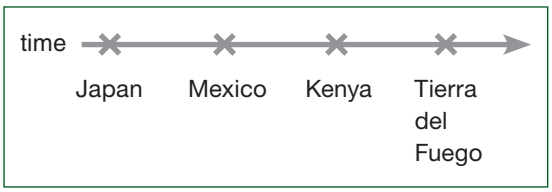
Before I went to Tierra del Fuego, I'd travelled all over the world and I'd seen all kinds of incredible sights. But this was definitely more impressive than anything else I'd ever seen. I'd never been so close to an iceberg before. I took this photo just as it started to turn. I hadn't realized how big it was until then. The side that had previously been underwater came to the top. It was a beautiful deep blue.

Roberto F. (Buenos Aires)

Presentation

Use the past perfect to talk about an action that happened before a certain time in the past:

Before I went to Tierra del Fuego, I'd travelled all around the world. I'd been to Japan, Mexico and Kenya.



You can also use the past perfect to talk about an action that did not happen before the given time in the past:

I'd never been so close to an iceberg before.

Affirmative and negative

I / You / He / She / It / They	'd (had) hadn't (had not)	seen an iceberg before.

Yes/No questions

Had	I / you / he / she / it / they	seen an iceberg before?

Short answers

Yes	I / you / he / she / it / they	had.
No	I / you / he / she / it / they	hadn't (had not).

TIP Don't confuse the contracted forms of *had* ('*d*) and *would* ('*d*):

I'd seen an iceberg. (I had seen an iceberg.)
I'd like to see an iceberg. (I would like to see an iceberg.)

Past perfect and past simple

You often use the past perfect and the past simple together. Use the past simple to talk about the most recent past action. Use the past perfect to talk about actions and situations that happened before a certain time in the past:

I hadn't realised how big it was until it turned over.

The side that had previously been underwater came to the top.

Time expressions

The past perfect is often used with the following adverbs to emphasise the fact that the action happened earlier: *already, just, recently, before, previously, earlier.*

- *Already, just* and *recently* come between *had* and the past participle.

  *He had **just** come back from Laos. I had **recently** sold my car.*

- *Before* comes at the end of the sentence. In negative sentences it is often used with *never.*

  *I'd been to Argentina many times **before**. I had **never** seen anything like it **before**.*

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1 Complete the text with the past perfect of the verbs.

When I first met Mark, he was working for an advertising agency in London. He [1] ..... (recently finish) his MBA and he was very happy because his company [2] ..... (just offer) him a post in Tokyo. He [3] ..... (never work) abroad before and he [4] ..... (always want) to go to Japan. Then two weeks before he planned to leave, the company told him that they [5] ..... (close) their office in Tokyo. He was so disappointed. He [6] ..... (already book) his flight. He [7] ..... (even start) learning Japanese. I [8] ..... (just come back) from Tokyo. My company still (not find) [9] ..... anyone to take my job. I told Mark to call them. Ten days later Mark's dreams [10] ..... (come) true: he was finally in Japan!

2 Look at the text in exercise 1. Write questions using the verbs in the brackets. Use the past perfect or past simple.

1 Where ..... (you meet) Mark for the first time?
At a party in London.

2 What ..... (his company offer) him a few weeks before?
A job in Tokyo.

3 ..... (he ever work) abroad before?
No, never.

4 When ..... (his company tell) him the Tokyo office had closed?
Only two weeks before he was leaving.

5 How ..... (Mark feel)?
Very disappointed.

6 ..... (he already book) his flight?
Yes, he had and he'd paid for it too!

7 How ..... (you help) him?
I told him to call my company.

8 So, ... (he go) to Japan in the end?
Yes, he did. Ten days later he was living in my old flat in Tokyo.

3 Complete the conversations with the past perfect or the past simple of the verbs. Then listen and check.

Conversation 1

A: [1] ..... you [2] ..... (meet) Kris before the party last week?

B: No, not really. I [3] ..... (see) her around, but I [4] ..... (not / speak) to her. She's really nice, isn't she?

Conversation 2

C: I didn't know that Rae [5] ..... (leave) her job! When [6] ..... that [7] ..... (happen)?

D: Last week. She [8] ..... (have) an argument with her boss the day before.

Conversation 3

E: Have you heard? John and Beth [9] ..... (get) divorced last month.

F: But they'd only just got married!

E: Yes, three months ago! They [10] ..... (only just / come back) from their honeymoon when John [11] ..... (decide) that he wanted a divorce.

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