

Week 9

Supplementary material

English for migrant activists

WHAT IS PAST PERFECT TENSE?

What is the Past Perfect Tense?

The Past Perfect tense is used to talk about an action that happened before another action or time in the past.

Structure:

- **Positive:** Subject + had + past participle
 - *She had applied for asylum before the new law was introduced.*
 - *They had left their home country before the crisis worsened.*
- **Negative:** Subject + had not + past participle
 - *He had not received his visa before he moved.*
 - *We had not prepared for the journey before we left.*
- **Question:** Had + subject + past participle?
 - *Had you spoken to a lawyer before you arrived?*
 - *Had she completed her paperwork before the deadline?*

Common Uses:

- Talking about an action that happened before another past action: *She had finished her application before the deadline closed.*
- Describing past experiences leading to a result: *They had suffered discrimination before they found legal support.*
- Talking about regrets or missed opportunities: *If he had known about the program, he would have joined sooner.*

Examples Related to Migrant Issues

1. *The workers had demanded fair wages before the strike began.*

2. *She had learned about her rights before she started working.*
3. *They had arrived at the refugee camp before the storm hit.*
4. *Had the organization provided assistance before the migrants arrived?*
5. *He had not saved enough money before he left his country.*
6. *We had not received any information before we applied for asylum.*
7. *Had you ever faced difficulties before moving to this country?*

Tip:

- Use "before" and "after" to show the sequence of events (*She had contacted a lawyer before she went to the immigration office.*)
- Use "already," "just," or "never" to add detail (*He had already prepared the documents when the officer asked.*)

Practice Exercises

A. Fill in the blanks with the correct past perfect form

1. She _____ (not complete) her visa application before the deadline.
2. They _____ (find) a safe place before the conflict started.
3. The government _____ (change) the law before many migrants arrived.
4. He _____ (never experience) discrimination before he moved to a new country.
5. _____ you _____ (finish) your paperwork before the meeting?

B. Rewrite the sentences in negative form

1. The migrants had secured housing before winter. → _____
2. She had contacted a legal advisor before the hearing. → _____
3. The workers had organized a protest before the policy change. → _____
4. He had applied for asylum before the new rule took effect. → _____
5. They had received help from the community before moving. → _____

C. Discussion Questions

- What challenges had migrants faced before moving to this country?
- How had organizations helped migrants before new policies were introduced?
- Can you think of a situation where the past perfect tense is useful when discussing migrant issues?