

Tense Exercise

Class: 9 | **Level:** Advanced

Topic: Present Perfect and Past Perfect Tense

Instructions: Fill in the blanks with the correct present perfect or past perfect form of the verb given in brackets. Some sentences may test your understanding of negatives, questions, and tricky time clues.

1. No sooner _____ (the bell/ring) than the students rushed out of the class.
2. Hardly _____ (I/reach) the station when the train left.
3. Scarcely _____ (she/sit) down when the phone rang.
4. This is the third time he _____ (fail) the exam.
5. It _____ (be) years since they last spoke to each other.
6. Not until yesterday _____ (I/realize) my mistake.
7. She wished she _____ (study) harder before the results were declared.
8. If only he _____ (listen) to his teacher's advice earlier.
9. By the time the fire brigade arrived, the fire _____ (already/spread) to the next building.
10. He behaved as if he _____ (never/meet) her before.
11. This is one of the finest paintings I _____ (ever/see).
12. Despite the fact that he _____ (warn) repeatedly, he repeated the mistake.
13. The manager was upset because the report _____ (not/submit) on time.
14. Never before _____ (the team/perform) so poorly in a final.
15. By the time she turned twenty, she _____ (publish) three novels.
16. I wonder how long you _____ (wait) for the results.
17. Had he _____ (prepare) well, he would have cleared the interview.
18. It was clear that someone _____ (tamper) with the lock.
19. All the guests _____ (arrive) before the ceremony began.
20. She admitted that she _____ (never/read) the terms carefully.
21. The company denied that any funds _____ (misuse).

22. Rarely _____ (such an event/take place) in this town before.
23. He looked exhausted as though he _____ (run) a marathon.
24. So far, the committee _____ (not/reach) any conclusion.
25. Once the workers _____ (complete) the survey, the report was drafted.
26. I still cannot believe what _____ (happen) to the old building.
27. Had the storm _____ (not/hit) the coast, the losses would have been minimal.
28. This _____ (be) the most difficult decision she has ever made.
29. The evidence suggested that the documents _____ (forge) months earlier.
30. Little _____ (they/know) that the deal had already collapsed.

Answer Key

1. had the bell rung
2. had I reached
3. had she sat
4. has failed
5. has been
6. did I realize
7. had studied
8. had listened
9. had already spread
10. had never met
11. have ever seen
12. had been warned
13. had not been submitted
14. had the team performed
15. had published
16. have been waiting
17. prepared
18. had tampered
19. had arrived
20. had never read
21. had been misused
22. has such an event taken place
23. had run

- 24. has not reached
- 25. had completed
- 26. has happened
- 27. not hit
- 28. has been
- 29. had been forged
- 30. did they know