

Title:

Learning Spanish and the Pluperfect Tense

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Summary:

In this Spanish lesson, we will learn the Pluperfect Tense. Whether you are learning Spanish
For the most part, the Pluperfect Tense is used to express a past fact or action that occurred

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Learning Spanish Like Crazy

Article Body:

The Pluperfect Tense

In this Spanish lesson, we will learn the Pluperfect Tense. Whether you are learning Spanish

For the most part, the Pluperfect Tense is used to express a past fact or action that occurred

In English, this can be expressed in the following manner:

I had thought of you when you called.

Although in English we tend to use the preterite to express two consecutive actions in the past

In Spanish, the above sentence is translated to:

Yo había pensado en usted cuando llamó.

Notice how the auxiliary verb haber (to have) is a prominent part of this tense, both in Spanish

Let us take a closer look at the conjugation for the Pluperfect Tense for -ar, -er, and -ir verbs

Trabajar (to work)

yo había trabajado (I had worked)

nosotros habíamos trabajado (we had worked)

tú habías trabajado (you had worked)

ellos habían trabajado (they had worked)

él había trabajado (he had worked)
ella había trabajado (she had worked)
usted había trabajado (you had worked)

ellas habían trabajado (they had worked)
ustedes habían trabajado (you had worked)

Notice how the conjugation for this tense is easily formed by adding -ía to hab--the auxiliary

This conjugation format is repeated for -er and -ir verbs as well.

Comer (to eat)

yo había comido (I had eaten)
tú habías comido (you had eaten)
él había comido (he had eaten)
ella había comido (she had eaten)
usted había comido (you had eaten)

nosotros habíamos comido (we had eaten)
ellos habían comido (they had eaten)
ellas habían comido (they had eaten)
ustedes habían comido (you had eaten)

Salir (to go out)

yo había salido (I had gone out)
tú habías salido (you had gone out)
él había salido (he had gone out)
ella había salido (she had gone out)
usted había salido (you had gone out)

nosotros habíamos salido (we had gone out)
ellos habían salido (they had gone out)
ellas habían salido (they had gone out)
ustedes habían salido (you had gone out)

What follows are a few examples of the PluPerfect Tense in Spanish:

Yo había salido cuando el teléfono sonó.
(I had gone out when the telephone rang.)

Juan y yo ya habíamos cenado cuando Sra. Patricia nos ofreció comida.

(We had already had dinner when Mrs. Patricia offered us food.)

Mauricio había hablado con su papá cuando llegó su mamá.

(Mauricio had spoken to his father when his mother arrived.)

Roberto y Julio habían bebido ron antes de llegar a la fiesta.

(Roberto and Julio had drunk rum before they arrived at the party.)

Josefina no había dormido mucho antes de entrarse en el avión.

(Josefina had not slept a lot before she entered the airplane.)

Now let's try a few exercises. Translate the following into Spanish. The answers follow the

1. Clara had cleaned the house when her friends arrived.
2. I had practiced my Spanish before Juan called me.
3. We had eaten too much, when the dessert arrived.
4. Paco and Enrique had finished the exam when the bell rang.
5. You had changed your dollars to pesos before the bank closed.
6. They had gone to the beach before it rained.
7. Marisol and I had eaten breakfast before we went to school.
8. We had learned how to dance salsa before we traveled to Puerto Rico.
9. I had met Diego before he came here.
10. Humberto had written to Carmen when he received her letter.

1. Clara había limpiado la casa cuando llegaron sus amigas.
2. Yo había practicado mi Español antes de Juan llamarme.
3. Habíamos comido demasiado cuando llegó el postre.
4. Paco y Enrique habían terminado el examen cuando sonó la campana.

5. Tú habías cambiado tus dólares a pesos antes de cerrar el banco.
6. Ellos habían ido a la playa antes de llover.
7. Marisol y yo habíamos desayunado antes de ir a la escuela.
8. Habíamos aprendido como bailar la salsa antes de viajar a Puerto Rico.
9. Yo había conocido a Diego antes de venir él aquí.
10. Humberto le había escrito a Carmen cuando recibió su carta.

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