Past Perfect and Past Perfect Progressive

Nature vs. Nurture

1 Grammar in the Real World

A Have you ever reconnected with someone from your past? Read the article about twins who lived apart for many years. What surprised the twins when they reconnected?

B Comprehension Check Answer the questions.

- 1 What was surprising about the twins' adoption?
- 2 What characteristics and interests did Elyse and Paula have in common?
- 3 What is the nature versus nurture debate?

C Notice Underline the verbs in each sentence.

- 1 Both girls knew that their parents had adopted them as infants.
- 2 She had been doing research on her birth mother when she made a surprising discovery.
- 3 Even more surprising, she learned that she had been part of a secret scientific study.

Which event happened first in each sentence? What event followed? Write the verbs. What do you notice about the form of the verbs?

1	First:	Then:
2	First:	Then:
3	First:	Then:



The SCIENCE of TWINS

¹identical: exactly the same

²DNA: the abbreviation for deoxyribonucleic acid, a chemical that controls the structure and purpose of every cell

³controversial: causing or likely to cause disagreement

⁴dominant: more important, strong, or noticeable

Twins, especially identical¹ twins, have always fascinated scientists. Identical twins develop from one egg, have identical DNA,² and are usually very similar in appearance and behavior. There have been many studies of identical twins raised in the same family. There have also been 5 a number of studies of identical twins separated at birth and raised in separate families. These studies have provided interesting information about the impact of nature (genetics) and nurture (the environment) on the development of the individual. However, some of the studies have been controversial.3

Take the case of Elyse Schein and Paula Bernstein. Elyse and Paula were identical twins separated at birth. Both girls knew that their parents had adopted them as infants, but neither girl knew about her twin. When Elyse grew up, she longed to meet her biological mother, so she contacted the agency that had arranged the adoption. She had been doing research on her birth mother when she made a surprising discovery. She had an identical twin. Even more surprising, she learned that she had been part of a secret scientific study. At the time of the adoption, the agency had allowed different families to adopt each twin. The agency had told the families that their child was part of a scientific 20 study. However, it **had** never **told** the families the goal of the study: for scientists to investigate nature versus nurture.

When Elyse and Paula finally met as adults, they were amazed. They had many similarities. They looked almost identical. They had both studied film. They both loved to write. Together, the twins discovered 25 that the researchers had stopped the study before the end because the public strongly disapproved of this type of research.

Although that study ended early, many scientists today make a strong case for the dominant⁴ role of nature. Schein and Bernstein agree that genetics explains many of their similarities. However, recent research 30 suggests that nurture is equally important. It is clear that the nature versus nurture debate will occupy scientists for years to come.

Past Perfect

Grammar Presentation

The past perfect is used to describe a completed event that happened before another event in the past.

Elyse finally met her sister, Paula. Paula had been married for several years. (First, Paula got married; Elyse met Paula at a later time.)

2.1 Forming Past Perfect

Form the past perfect with had + the past participle of the main verb. Form the negative by adding not after had.

The form is the same for all subjects.

Elyse and Paula did not grow up together. They had lived with different families.

They were available for adoption because their birth mother had given them up.

"Had she talked about the study to anyone at the time?" "No, she hadn't."

"What had you heard about this study before that time?" "I'd heard very little about it."

Irregular Verbs: See page A1.

2.2 Using Past Perfect with Simple Past

A Use the past perfect to describe an event in a time period that leads up to another past event or time period. Use the simple past to describe the later event or time period.

B The prepositions before, by, or until can introduce the later time period.

The past perfect is often used to give reasons or background information for later past events. LATER TIME EARLIER TIME

She **learned** that she **had been** part of a secret study.

LATER TIME EARLIER TIME

The twins discovered that they had both studied psychology.

EARLIER TIME

Their mother had known about the study before her death.

EARLIER TIME

LATER TIME

Sue hadn't met her sister until last year.

EARLIER TIME

LATER TIME

Studies on twins had become common by the 1960s.

REASON

She was late. She had forgotten to set her alarm clock.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LATER PAST EVENT

He had never taken a subway before he moved to New York

IIII Data from the Real World

In writing, these verbs are commonly used in the past perfect: come, have, leave, make, and take.

Had been is the most common past perfect form in speaking and writing.

The twins **had not gone** to the same school as children.

The family thought that they **had made** the right decision.

Psychologists praised the study because the researchers had been very careful in their work.

The researchers **had not been** aware of each other's work on twins until they met.

Grammar Application

Exercise 2.1 Past Perfect

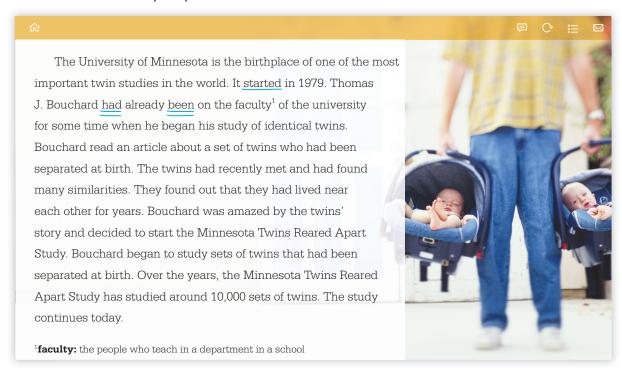
Complete the sentences about twins who met as adults. Use the past perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

1	Two separate Illinois familiabefore the twins were three	es <u>had adopted</u> (adopt) Anne Green and Annie Smith e days old.	
2	When the girls met, they were fascinated by their similarities. For example, they (live) near each other before the Greens moved away.		
3	As children, both Anne an	d Annie (go) to the same summer camp.	
4	Anne (not/attend) college, eithe	_ (not/go) to college, and Annieer.	
5	Both	(marry) for the first time by the age of 22.	
6		get) divorced and (remarry) (not/get) divorced and was still married.	
7	Both Anne and Annie wer	e allergic to cats and dogs and _ (own) pets.	
8	Both	(give) the same name – Heather – to their daughters.	
9	Both previously	(work) in the hospitality industry.	
0	Anne	(work) as a hotel manager. However, Annie	
		(be) a restaurant manager.	



Exercise 2.2 Past Perfect and Simple Past

A Read the article about a famous twin study. Underline the simple past forms. Double underline the past perfect forms.



B Pair Work Compare your answers with a partner. Discuss the reason for each of your answers.

In line 3, had been refers to the first event. Dr. Bouchard joined the faculty before the twin study. The twin study began later. The study is the second event, so started is in the simple past.

Exercise 2.3 More Past Perfect and Simple Past



A Listen to an interview with twins who are actors. Complete the sentences with the verbs you hear.

Claudia Today, I'm interviewing Alex and Andrew Underhill. They appear in the Spy Twins movie series based on the books of the same name. How did you get the part in the first Spy Twins movie?

1	A friend —	had seen	— the advertisement in the ne	wspaper and later
,		(1)		wopaper and later
			us about it. We	
		(2)		(3)
á	any acting	before then, b	ut we	to try out anyway
	, .		(Δ)	, , ,

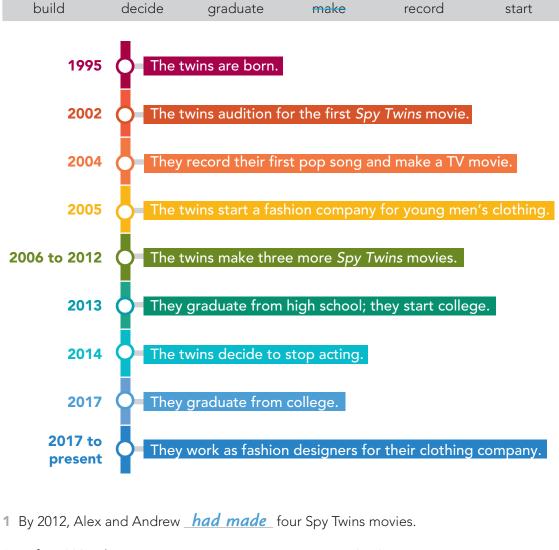
Claudia	How many twins were at the audition?
Andrew	When we got there, we that about five other sets of twins for the audition.
Alex	We also noticed that all the twins were wearing matching outfits. Until that audition, we never the same clothes in our whole lives. We decided to run out to the nearest shopping
	mall to buy some matching clothes. The audition just
Claudia	you the <i>Spy Twins</i> novels before your audition?
Andrew Claudia	Yes. The third book when we to the first audition. What's it like being twins? Are you two close? Do you do the same things?
Alex	Yes, in lots of ways. We definitely think the same way.
Alex	Right! Once, we took the same test in school. Of course, we were in the same grade, but we had different teachers. We had exactly the same answers correct, even though we
Claudia	in the same classroom! Wow! I guess you're a lot alike in many

B Listen again and check your answers.

ways! Well, thanks, Alex and Andrew.

It's been great talking with you.

C Use the time line to complete the sentences about Alex and Andrew. Use the past perfect form of the verbs in the box.



- 2 Before 2004, the twins ______ (not) a pop song.
- 3 By 2016, the twins ______ to stop acting.
- 4 The twins (not) a fashion company yet in 2004.
- **5** The twins from high school by 2015.

3 Past Perfect with Time Clauses

Grammar Presentation

The past perfect is often used with time clauses for events that occurred in an earlier time period leading up to a later event or time period.

By the time Elyse discovered her sister, people had forgotten about the twin study.

3.1 Order of Events

A Use time clauses to show two separate past time periods. Use the past perfect to signal an event that occurred in an earlier time period.

Elyse had moved by the time the researchers called her.

The time words after, as soon as, before, by the time, until, and when can introduce the time clauses.

After they had met, they noticed their many similarities. Until Elyse started her research, she hadn't known about the twin study.

B With before and after, the past perfect is not always necessary because the order is clear. In this case, the past perfect emphasizes the earlier time period.

Elyse moved before she met her twin. OR Elyse had moved before she met her twin.

In time clauses with when, the use of the past perfect in the main clause usually shows a good amount of time between events.

When Paula met Elyse, she had already learned about the research. (She learned about the research. She met Elyse some time later.)

D The use of as soon as with the past perfect shows that one event happened very soon after the other.

As soon as the researchers had learned about the public's reaction to the study, they stopped it. (The scientists learned about the public's reaction to the study. They stopped the study very soon after that.)

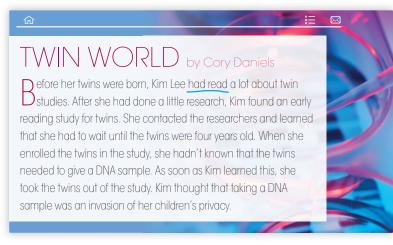
The use of the simple past in both clauses shows that one event happened very soon after the other. When Paula met Elyse, she **learned** about the research. (She learned about the research very soon after she met Elyse.)

Grammar Application

Exercise 3.1 Order of Events

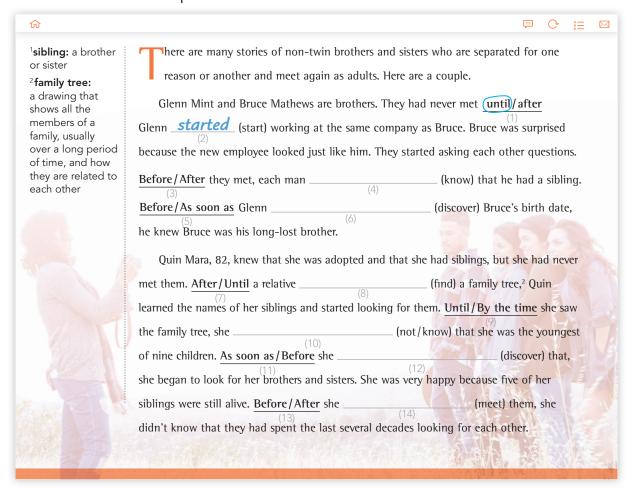
- A Read the blog entry about twin studies. Underline the past perfect form of the verbs.
- B Pair Work Discuss why the past perfect is used in each case in A. Then find a sentence with a time clause that describes two events that happened at the same time or almost the same time.

What is the form of the verbs in this sentence?



Exercise 3.2 Time Clauses

Complete the article about siblings1 who were separated as children. Circle the correct time word. Write the simple past or past perfect form of the verbs in parentheses. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.



Exercise 3.3 Combining Sentences

Read the story about how environment affects personality. Combine the sentences with the time words in parentheses. Use the past perfect for the earlier event and the simple past for the later event.

1 Diego and Shannon were married for a few years. Then they decided to have a baby. (when) When Diego and Shannon had been married for a few years, they decided to have a baby. 2 Diego and Shannon did not think much about the nature versus nurture debate. Then their first child, Mario, was born. (until) 3 Diego and Shannon didn't have much experience with music. Then they became parents. (before) 4 Three-year-old Mario saw an electronic keyboard in a shop. Then he asked his parents to buy him one. (after) 5 Diego and Shannon heard Mario playing the keyboard. Then they realized their son's musical talent. (as soon as) 6 Diego and Shannon realized Mario's talent. Then they enrolled him in piano classes. (as soon as) 7 Diego and Shannon enrolled Mario in piano classes. Then Mario became an excellent musician. (after) 8 Mario took a few years of piano classes. He started composing music. (by the time) ____



4 Past Perfect Progressive

Grammar Presentation

The past perfect progressive emphasizes the ongoing nature of a past activity or situation leading up to a more recent past time.

Living with a roommate was hard for me in the beginning. I had been living alone for years.

4.1 Forming Past Perfect Progressive

Form the past perfect progressive with had + been + -ing form of the verb. Form the negative by putting not between had and been or using the contraction hadn't.

She knew Boston well when I visited her. She'd been living there for years.

When my brother visited me, I had not/hadn't been living there long.

4.2 Using Past Perfect Progressive

Use the past perfect progressive for an action or situation that continued up to an event or situation in past time. This can show a reason or give background information.

He looked tired because he had been working all night.

My eyes were sore because I hadn't been wearing my contacts.

B With some verbs such as live, play, teach, wear, and work, use either the past perfect or past perfect progressive. The meaning is similar.

The twins **had lived** in different cities before they discovered each other, or

The twins **had been living** in different cities before they discovered each other.

Grammar Application

Exercise 4.1 Past Perfect Progressive

Complete the story about brothers who reconnected after many years. Use the past perfect progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

Mark and Peter were brothers. Their parents could not take care of them. One family adopted Mark, and another family adopted Peter. Mark and Peter <u>had been dreaming</u> (dream) of finding each other since 2015. When they finally met, they were surprised by how much they had in common. For most of their adult lives, their jobs



had been related, even though they	(not/work) in
the same business. Mark	_ (make) furniture, and Peter
(sell) furniture. Mark	
(interview) for jobs in furniture stores and decided to tak	(5) se a new position at Mark's
	endly customer when he
saw a man who looked like him walk into the store. Peter	quickly stopped what he
(do) and introduced him	self. That first day, Peter
and Mark talked for hours. They found out that they	(8)
(not/live) in the same city, but they had attended schools	s in the same district for most
of their childhood. They	(cross) paths for many years
without ever meeting. They had never expected to have	so much in common.

Exercise 4.2 Past Perfect Progressive, Past Perfect, or Simple Past?

A	Use the	ete the interview with a woman who found her three siblings after many years. e past perfect progressive, the past perfect, or the simple past form of the verbs in heses. Use contractions when possible. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.
	Vijay	Tell us how you found your family.
	Paula	(not/have) much luck, though. Then one day, I turned on the TV. A talk show was on. The host of the show was interviewing three siblings – two brothers and a half sister. Different families (adopt) the siblings many
		years before.
	Vijay	And?
	Paula	They (talk) about me before I turned on the program. The siblings had recently reunited, and they (search) for a fourth sibling for the past several months. I called the TV station, and we all finally
		(meet).
	Vijay	So, you (look) for a sister all your life, and you found three siblings!
	Paula	Yes, it was wonderful! We all met at one of the network offices the following week.
		After we (speak) for a while, it was obvious to me that
		they (look) for me all their lives, too.
		¹half sister: a sister who is biologically related by one parent only
В	Pair \	Nork Discuss these questions with a partner.
		ose a sentence in A in which you can use either the past perfect or the past perfect gressive. Why are both possible here?
	■ In wh	nich sentence in A is only the past perfect correct?

C Over to You Do an online search for twins, siblings, or other family members who reunited after many years. Write five sentences about their experiences. Use the past perfect and the past perfect progressive.

5 Avoid Common Mistakes 🛕



Use the past perfect or past perfect progressive to give background information for a past tense event.

had

I have never seen my sister in real life, so I was nervous the first time we met.

had been dreaming

I have dreamed about meeting her, and I finally did.

Use the past perfect or past perfect progressive to give a reason for a past event. 2

had been crying

Her eyes were red and puffy because she cried.

3 Use the past perfect (not the past perfect progressive) for a completed earlier event.

They had been arranging a time to meet, but both of them forgot about it.

Use the past perfect (not present perfect) to describe a completed event that happened before a past event.

had

I have visited her in Maine twice before she came to visit me.

Editing Task

Find and correct seven more mistakes in the paragraphs about sibling differences.

I have never really thought about sibling differences until my own children were born. When we had our first child, my husband and I have lived in Chicago for just a few months. We have not made many friends yet, so we spent all our time with our child. Baby Gilbert was happy to be the center of attention. He depended on us 5 for everything.

By the time our second son, Chase, was born, we have developed a community of friends and a busier social life. We frequently visited friends and left the children at home with a babysitter. As a result of our busy schedules, Chase was more independent. One day I had just been hanging up the phone when Chase came into 10 the room. Chase picked up the phone and started talking into it. I thought he was pretending, but I was wrong. He had been figuring out how to use the phone!

When my husband came home, he was tired because he worked all day. When I told him about Chase's phone conversation, though, he became very excited. Gilbert has never used the phone as a child. At first, we were surprised that Chase was so 15 different from Gilbert. Then we realized that because of our busy lifestyles, Chase had learned to be independent.