

Too late



Yesterday was Bill's birthday. He had planned to give himself a present of a great evening out - first a disco, then the theatre. Look what happened. Complete the sentences with **simple past or past perfect**.



After he **had finished** work, he waited for the bus into town. But he was too late. The bus **___had already left___** (already/ leave).



When he **___arrived___** (arrive) at the disco, he found that it **___had closed___** (close).



So he **___went___** (go) to buy a ticket for the theatre. But the play **___had already begun___** (already/begin).



Then he **___went___** (go) to the cinema. But the film **___had already started___** (already/ start).



By now Bill was very unhappy. He decided to go home.



Just outside his front door he heard his phone ring. But by the time he **___got___** (get) inside the house, it **___had stopped___** (stop).

The next day his friend Barbara phoned him. She said:
"Where were you last night? I wanted to take you out - to a restaurant and then to the theatre. I **___had already booked___** (already/ book) a table and bought tickets. But when I **___went___** (go) to meet you, you **___had already left___** (already/ leave) work."



Erklärung:

Das **Past Perfect** (Plusquamperfekt) drückt die **Vorzeitigkeit** aus.

Das bedeutet: Wir haben eine Handlung, die in der Vergangenheit (Simple Past) geschah (hier: Bills Versuche, etwas zu unternehmen). Wenn man nun ausdrücken will, dass etwas zu diesem Zeitpunkt in der Vergangenheit bereits geschehen war (Also, dass beispielsweise der Film bereits angefangen hatte), brauchen wir das Past Perfect.

„Already“ (= schon, bereits) kennst du als Signalwort für das Present Perfect (man hat bereits etwas gemacht). Hier versetzt du das Ganze einfach einen Schritt zurück in die Vergangenheit (man hatte bereits etwas gemacht).

Past perfect: **had + past participle**