

# Past simple and past perfect tense exercise

Fill in the blanks with the correct tense form (simple past, past perfect or past perfect continuous) of the verbs.

1. By the time the fire fighters ....., the fire ..... many huts.

arrived, destroyed  
had arrived, destroyed  
arrived, had destroyed

2. He was not ..... to write the exam, because he ..... his hall ticket.

permitted, did not bring  
permitted, had not brought  
permitted, has not brought

3. Long before the chief guest ....., the invitees .....

had arrived, had assembled  
arrived, assembled  
arrived, had assembled

4. I wish you ..... your application in time.

# Past simple and past perfect tense exercise

sent

have sent

had sent

5. The police ..... the thief. They .....  
for him for two months.

caught, looked

had caught, had been looking

caught, had been looking

6. If they ..... the Principal, he would  
have helped them.

met

have met

had met

7. I ..... to him, as I ..... to him  
formally.

have not spoken, was not introduced

did not speak, was not introduced

had not spoken, was not introduced

# Past simple and past perfect tense exercise

8. By the time we ..... the station, the train  
.....

had reached, had left

reached, left

reached, had left

9. If Balu ..... the secretary earlier, he  
..... him a job.

see, would give

saw, would have given

had seen, would have given

10. If Raju ..... in our team, we .....

were, would win

were, would have won

were, will win

## Answers

1. By the time the fire fighters arrived, the fire had destroyed many huts.

2. He was not permitted to write the exam, because he had not brought his hall ticket.

# Past simple and past perfect tense exercise

3. Long before the chief guest arrived, the invitees had assembled.
4. I wish you had sent your application in time.
5. The Police caught the thief. They had been looking for him for two months.
6. If they had met the Principal, he would have helped them.
7. I did not speak to him, as I was not introduced to him formally.
8. By the time we reached the station, the train had left.
9. If Balu had seen the secretary earlier, he would have given him a job.
10. If Raju were in our team, we would win.