

Le past perfect (plus-que-parfait)

Durée : 55 min

Barème : / 20 points

Barème : 1 point par question, soit 4 points par exercice

Unités : réponse sans unité = 0,5 point retiré

1 Compréhension de l'écrit : un récit

/ 4 pts

- a. Because their flight left at six in the morning.
- b. He had packed his bag, but he had forgotten his passport at Grandma's house.
- c. The check-in had closed; a member of staff who had seen them running reopened the desk.
- d. L'action (passer la nuit devant des vidéos) est antérieure au moment du récit (il s'endort dans l'avion) : c'est la cause passée d'une situation passée, donc past perfect.

Méthode — Dans un récit, chaque past perfect renvoie à un moment plus ancien que la phrase précédente : reconstruis l'ordre réel des événements avant de répondre.

2 Compréhension de l'écrit : lecture d'un tableau

/ 4 pts

- a. Two hours and ten minutes (7:30 → 9:40); the trip ended at 15:00.
- b. The guide had prepared the visit (noticed at 9:40) / nobody had brought a raincoat (noticed at 11:00) / Leo had left his lunch (noticed at 8:15) / two pupils had lost their tickets (noticed at 15:00).
- c. « Oh no, I have left my lunch at home! » — Dans le tableau, l'oubli a eu lieu avant 8:15 (moment où Leo s'en rend compte), donc antériorité dans le passé → past perfect.
- d. Ex.: When the group arrived at the castle, the guide had already prepared the visit. / By the time the coach came back, two pupils had lost their tickets.

Repère — Le present perfect du discours direct (I have left) devient un past perfect dès que l'on raconte la scène au passé (he had left).

3 Grammaire : prétérit et past perfect

/ 4 pts

- a. blew / had already invaded ; hadn't eaten / ordered.
- b. The plane hadn't taken off. / Had the plane taken off?
- c. She said that she had never been to Wales.
- d. « After the guests had left, we cleaned the house because they had drunk everything in the fridge. » (had left ; cleaned ; drunk)

Erreur fréquente — Mettre tout le récit au past perfect est aussi faux que ne jamais l'utiliser : une seule action par phrase remonte dans le temps, les autres restent au prétérit.

4 Participes passés et adverbes

/ 4 pts

- a. flown, chosen, frozen, ridden, begun, stolen, driven, fallen.
- b. a) We had just eaten. b) They hadn't paid yet. c) She had never seen snow. d) Had you ever visited London?
- c. « I have finished » links the action to now (I am free now); « I had finished » links it to a past moment (I was free when you called).
- d. By the time we arrived, the shop had already closed, so we went home.

Astuce — Les adverbes already, just, never, ever se glissent entre had et le participe ; yet se place en fin de phrase — mêmes règles qu'au present perfect.

5 Expression écrite guidée

/ 4 pts

- a. Ex.: My books were on the floor and someone had painted a small blue star on the door. Somebody had also left a note: « Thank you! »
- b. On Friday, I had lent my locker key to my friend Sam before I left for the bus.
- c. By the time the bell rang, Sam had explained everything: he had hidden a birthday present for his sister in my locker.
- d. I decided to laugh and to keep the star. I had never had such a strange Monday morning.

Le point clé — Un récit au passé réussi alterne prétérit (ce qui se passe) et past perfect (ce qui s'était passé avant) : le lecteur doit pouvoir reconstituer l'ordre des faits.