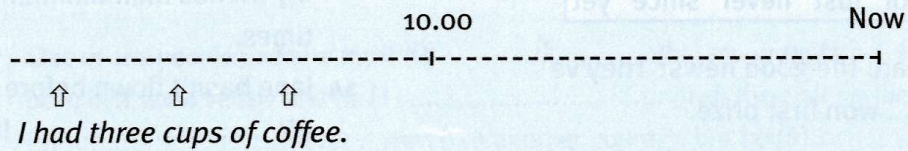


# 40 Past perfect simple

- We use the past perfect simple to talk about an action that happened before a particular time in the past: *By ten o'clock this morning, I'd had three cups of coffee.*



- We often use the past perfect:
  - with *before, earlier* and *by + time reference*: *I had met him before. The guests had left by eleven o'clock.*
  - with *because*: *He was tired because he hadn't slept well.*
  - with *just, already, yet, ever* and *never*. *Just, already, ever* and *never* come after *had*. *Yet* usually comes at the end of the sentence: *The kids had already seen the film. I wanted to go home, but I hadn't finished my work yet.*
- To form the past perfect simple, we use *had ('d)/hadn't + past participle*:

<b>Affirmative</b>	I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>had finished</b>
<b>Negative</b>	I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>hadn't finished</b>
<b>Question</b>	<b>Had</b> I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>finished?</b>
<b>Short answers</b>	Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>had.</b>
	No, I/you/he/she/it/we/they <b>hadn't.</b>

▶▶ See Appendix 11: Irregular verbs, pages 172–173.

## PRACTICE

### 40a Complete the sentences. Use the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

- 0 We decided to stay at home because it ..... *had started* ..... to rain. (start)
- 1 Your interview went badly because you ..... for it. (not prepare)
- 2 She didn't buy a new dress because she ..... all her money. (spend)
- 3 I couldn't get on the flight because I ..... a ticket. (not book)
- 4 We weren't hungry because we ..... a big lunch. (have)
- 5 He was excited because he ..... a horse before. (not ride)
- 6 All the plates were dirty because nobody ..... . (wash up)
- 7 I went to see the film because a friend ..... me about it. (tell)
- 8 She didn't know his name because she ..... him before. (not meet)