

40b Complete the article. Use the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

The Swedish tennis star Björn Borg was one of the greatest tennis players of all time. He started playing at the age of nine, when his father gave him his first racket.

Before that, Björn (0) *had played* (play) hockey and football. By the age of fourteen, he (1) (leave) school to dedicate all his time to tennis.

Sweden (2) (never / have) a tennis champion before, but by his twentieth birthday, Borg (3) (already / won) two French Open Championships and he (4) (beat) tennis legends Manuel Orantes and Guillermo Vilas to win them. When he first won Wimbledon in 1976, people were surprised because he (5) (not do) well on grass before, but he went on to win another four times. By the age of 26, he (6) (also / collect) six French Open titles.

40c Complete the conversations. Use the past perfect of the verbs in brackets.

A: We had a wonderful time in Tunisia.

B: That's great! (0) *Had the kids been* (the kids / be) abroad before?

B: Yes, they (1) But they (2) (never / be) on a plane.

A: Did you go there because someone (3) (recommend) it?

B: No, but we (4) (read) a lot of good things about it.

A: Ray loved the computer game we gave him for his birthday.

B: That's good. (5) (he / ever / play) it before?

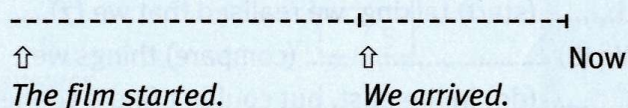
B: No, he (6) He (7) (never / hear) of it.

A: And did David go to the party in the end?

B: Yes. He and Ray (8) (not see) each other for five years!

41 Past perfect and past simple

- We use the past perfect to show that one action or event happened before another action or event in the past. We use the past perfect for the action that happened first and the past simple for the action that happened later: *When we **arrived**, the film **had already started**.*



- We often use *when* and *by the time* with the past simple to talk about the second of two actions or events in the past. Notice when we use a comma (,): *When we got to the airport, the plane **had already taken off**. The plane **had already taken off when we got to the airport**.*