

Advanced Past Perfect: passive, inversion, implied conditionals, free indirect discourse

C1 / C2 Advanced

Student Worksheet

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: ____ / 56

Exercise 1 — True or False? (8 points)

Read each statement. Write **True** or **False**.

1. The Past Perfect passive is formed with had been + past participle.

Answer: _____

2. "Had she known" is an inverted form of "If she had known".

Answer: _____

3. Inversion with "had" is more common in informal spoken English.

Answer: _____

4. "But for his help" carries the same conditional meaning as "If it hadn't been for his help".

Answer: _____

5. Free indirect discourse always uses quotation marks to show a character's thoughts.

Answer: _____

6. In the Past Perfect passive, the agent (the person who did the action) is always named.

Answer: _____

7. "Without their support, we would have failed" is an example of an implied conditional.

Answer: _____

8. In free indirect discourse, the Past Perfect places a thought in earlier past time relative to the narrative.

Answer: _____

Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice (8 points)

Choose the correct option. Circle your answer.

1. The evidence ____ before the trial began.

(had been destroyed / was destroyed / had destroyed)

2. ____ she realised the scale of the problem, she would have acted sooner.

(Had / If had / Would have)

3. ____ his intervention, the negotiations would have broken down completely.

(But for / Without that / Had not)

4. The merger ____ in secret for months before any announcement was made.

(had been negotiated / had negotiated / was negotiated)

5. ____ they anticipated the backlash, the campaign would have been very different.

(Had / If / Would)

6. She sat staring at the letter. They ____ her. After everything she had done.

(had rejected / rejected / have rejected)

7. ____ the intervention of a senior lawyer, the case would have been dismissed.

(Without / But / Had)

8. He ____ entirely. There was nothing left to salvage.

(had been misled / had misled / was misleading)

Exercise 3 — Matching (8 points)

Match each sentence (1–8) to the correct description (a–h). Write the letter.

Sentences	Descriptions
1. The building had been condemned long before the collapse occurred.	A. <u>Past Perfect passive</u> — action completed on an object before another past action.
2. Had the team communicated better, the project would have succeeded.	B. <u>Inverted conditional</u> — formal alternative to the standard if-clause.
3. But for a last-minute appeal, the verdict would have stood.	C. <u>Implied conditional using "but for"</u> — equivalent to "if it hadn't been for".
4. She closed the file. It had all been arranged without her knowledge.	D. <u>Past Perfect passive in narrative</u> — describing what had happened to someone.
5. He had given everything to this company. And now they were firing him.	E. <u>Fleeting direct discourse</u> — the character's thought blended into the narrative.
6. Had I been informed earlier, I would have taken a different approach.	F. <u>Formal conditional with first person</u> — formal written register.
7. Without that research grant, the discovery would never have happened.	G. <u>Implied conditional using "without"</u> — the absent condition and its unreality.
8. The data had been manipulated. She was sure of it now.	H. <u>Past Perfect direct discourse</u> — Past Perfect anchoring a character's realisation.

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

1. The policy ____ without any consultation with the staff.

(had been implemented / had implemented / was implementing)

2. ____ they acted sooner, the crisis might have been averted.

(Had / If / Would)

3. But for the whistleblower's testimony, the fraud ____ undetected.

(would have gone / had gone / went)

4. All records ____ by the time investigators arrived on site.

(had been deleted / had deleted / were deleting)

5. ____ the support of her mentor, she would never have reached this position.

(Without / But / Had not)

6. He stared at the empty office. They ____ everything while he was away.

(had rearranged / rearranged / have rearranged)

7. ____ the board intervened earlier, the company would still be trading.

(Had / If / Would)

8. The terms of the settlement ____ before the case reached court.

(had been agreed / had agreed / were agreeing)

Exercise 5 — Word Order (8 points)

Put the words in the correct order to make a sentence.

1. filed / The / had / been / resigned / before / report / she

2. known / refused / I / Had / offer / would / I / the / have

3. evidence / her / But / case / for / collapsed / would / the / have

4. before / All / transferred / noticed / funds / been / anyone / had

5. consulted / they / outcome / different / been / Had / would / the / have / staff

6. room / certain / She / looked / around / He / been / the / had / there / she / was

7. investment / launched / never / Without / project / have / would / their / the

8. already / board / made / been / decision / had / at / level / The / the

Exercise 6 — Word Sort (8 points)

Write each sentence in the correct column of the table below.

Word bank: The site had been cleared before planning permission was granted. | A confidentiality agreement had been signed by all parties. | The samples had been contaminated before testing began. | Had the directors acted responsibly, the company would still exist. | Had she spoken up sooner, the situation would have been resolved. | Had we known the risks, we would have approached it differently. | But for a single casting decision, the film would have been forgotten. | Without that breakthrough, the treatment would never have been developed. | Otherwise, the vote would have gone the other way. | She read the rejection letter again. She had given them everything. | He had trusted them completely. That, he now realised, had been his mistake. | She had worked so hard for this moment. Surely it would be worth it.

Past Perfect Passive	Inversion (Had + subject)	Implied Conditional	Free Indirect Discourse
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation (8 points)

Choose the correct form from the brackets.

A: It ____ at the highest level — that much is clear.

(had been approved / had approved / was approved)

B: Exactly. ____ anyone flagged it earlier, the damage could have been contained.

(Had / If / Would)

A: ____ the internal audit, we might never have found out at all.

(But for / Without that / Had not)

B: All the key documents ____ before her team arrived.

(had been removed / had removed / were removing)

A: ____ the whistleblower not come forward, this would have been buried.

(Had / If / Would)

B: She sat with the report. ____ for years. And she had never suspected a thing.

(had been lied to / had lied / was lying)

Exercise 1 — True or False?

1. The Past Perfect passive is formed with had been + past participle.
✓ **True**
 2. "Had she known" is an inverted form of "If she had known".
✓ **True**
 3. Inversion with "had" is more common in informal spoken English.
✓ **False**
 4. "But for his help" carries the same conditional meaning as "If it hadn't been for his help".
✓ **True**
 5. Free indirect discourse always uses quotation marks to show a character's thoughts.
✓ **False**
 6. In the Past Perfect passive, the agent (the person who did the action) is always named.
✓ **False**
 7. "Without their support, we would have failed" is an example of an implied conditional.
✓ **True**
 8. In free indirect discourse, the Past Perfect places a thought in earlier past time relative to the narrative.
✓ **True**
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Exercise 2 — Multiple Choice

1. The evidence ____ before the trial began.
✓ **had been destroyed**
2. ____ she realised the scale of the problem, she would have acted sooner.
✓ **Had**
3. ____ his intervention, the negotiations would have broken down completely.
✓ **But for**
4. The merger ____ in secret for months before any announcement was made.
✓ **had been negotiated**
5. ____ they anticipated the backlash, the campaign would have been very different.
✓ **Had**
6. She sat staring at the letter. They ____ her. After everything she had done.

✓ **had rejected**

7. ____ the intervention of a senior lawyer, the case would have been dismissed.

✓ **Without**

8. He ____ entirely. There was nothing left to salvage.

✓ **had been misled**

Exercise 3 — Matching

1. The building had been condemned long before the collapse occurred.

✓ **Past Perfect passive — action completed on an object before another past event.**

2. Had the team communicated better, the project would have succeeded.

✓ **Inverted conditional — formal alternative to the standard if-clause.**

3. But for a last-minute appeal, the verdict would have stood.

✓ **Implied conditional using "but for" — equivalent to "if it hadn't been for".**

4. She closed the file. It had all been arranged without her knowledge.

✓ **Past Perfect passive in narrative — describing what had happened to something.**

5. He had given everything to this company. And now they were letting him go.

✓ **Free indirect discourse — the character's thought blended into the narrator's voice.**

6. Had I been informed earlier, I would have taken a different approach.

✓ **Inverted conditional with first person — formal written register.**

7. Without that research grant, the discovery would never have been made.

✓ **Implied conditional using "without" — the absent condition and its unrealised result.**

8. The data had been manipulated. She was sure of it now. But who had done it?

✓ **Free indirect discourse — Past Perfect anchoring a character's realisation.**

Exercise 4 — Gap Fill

1. The policy ____ without any consultation with the staff.

✓ **had been implemented**

2. ____ they acted sooner, the crisis might have been averted.

✓ **Had**

3. But for the whistleblower's testimony, the fraud ____ undetected.

✓ **would have gone**

4. All records ____ by the time investigators arrived on site.

✓ **had been deleted**

5. ____ the support of her mentor, she would never have reached this position.

✓ Without

6. He stared at the empty office. They ____ everything while he was away.

✓ had rearranged

7. ____ the board intervened earlier, the company would still be trading.

✓ Had

8. The terms of the settlement ____ before the case reached court.

✓ had been agreed

Exercise 5 — Word Order

1. ✓ The report had been filed before she resigned

2. ✓ Had I known I would have refused the offer

3. ✓ But for her evidence the case would have collapsed

4. ✓ All funds had been transferred before anyone noticed

5. ✓ Had they consulted staff the outcome would have been different

6. ✓ She looked around the room He had been there she was certain

7. ✓ Without their investment the project would never have launched

8. ✓ The decision had already been made at board level

Exercise 6 — Word Sort

Past Perfect Passive:

✓ The site had been cleared before planning permission was granted.

✓ A confidentiality agreement had been signed by all parties.

✓ The samples had been contaminated before testing began.

Inversion (Had + subject):

✓ Had the directors acted responsibly, the company would still exist.

✓ Had she spoken up sooner, the situation would have been resolved.

✓ Had we known the risks, we would have approached it differently.

Implied Conditional:

✓ But for a single casting decision, the film would have been forgotten.

✓ Without that breakthrough, the treatment would never have been developed.

✓ Otherwise, the vote would have gone the other way.

Free Indirect Discourse:

✓ She read the rejection letter again. She had given them everything.

✓ He had trusted them completely. That, he now realised, had been his mistake.

✓ She had worked so hard for this moment. Surely it would be worth it.

Exercise 7 — Complete the Conversation

1. A: It ____ at the highest level — that much is clear.

✓ had been approved

2. B: Exactly. ____ anyone flagged it earlier, the damage could have been contained.

✓ Had

3. A: ____ the internal audit, we might never have found out at all.

✓ But for

4. B: All the key documents ____ before her team arrived.

✓ had been removed

5. A: ____ the whistleblower not come forward, this would have been buried.

✓ Had

6. B: She sat with the report. ____ for years. And she had never suspected a thing.

✓ had been lied to