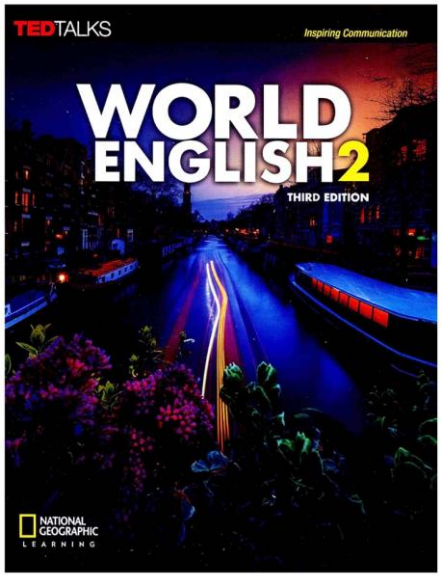
Transitions in Life

Unit 6 | Session 1

The past perfect



Today's plan

Read a story about the writer Nadia Drake

Use the past perfect for earlier events

Talk about what you had done before

Lesson timeline (60 min)

Review	15 min
Lead-in	6 min
Reading	10 min
Meaning + form	13 min
Practice	6 min
Speaking	7 min
Wrap-up	3 min

Review: Unit 5

15 min

1 What were you doing at 8 p.m. yesterday?

2 Complete: I _____ (walk) home when it started to rain.

3 Use enough: Tom is tall. He can reach the shelf.

4 Which phrasal verb? The car stopped working.

5 Fix: She isn't enough old to drive.

6 Is it too cold to swim today? Why / why not?

Homework check: compare your paragraph with a partner (5 min).

Quiz in pairs (6 min). Then check as a class (4 min).

Watch and think

3 min



What can you see?

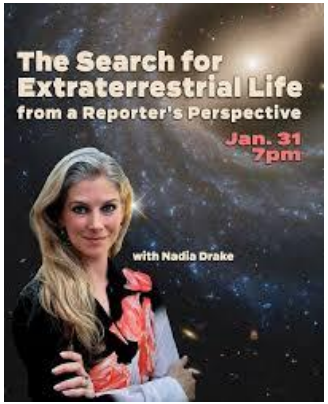
What was the video about?

How do people change in their lives?

Meet Nadia Drake

3 min











Predict

Who is she?
What does she do?
What do you think she did before she became a writer?

Read a story about Nadia

10 min



Read for gist

3 min

Read the story in the Student's Book. What is Nadia's job? Were your predictions right?



Find meanings

4 min

Answer part B. Use the words around a new word to guess its meaning.



Make sentences

3 min

Write a new sentence with each new word. Read one to your partner.

Meaning: what had happened?

5 min



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	**had**	(= I'**d** etc.) (= he'**d** etc.)	**gone** **seen** **finished** etc.

Sarah arrived at 11:00.
Paul **had gone** home. He left at 10:30.

had left >>> arrived



The past perfect: form

5 min

+	**S + had + past participle**	Before she started school, Luisa had learned two languages.
-	**S + hadn't + past participle**	I was worried because I hadn't gotten extra points.
?	**Had + S + past participle?**	Had you turned off the TV before you left the house?
Wh?	**Wh- word + had + S + past participle?**	Where had you studied when you were a student?

When do we use it?

3 min

An earlier past event

Paul had left before Sarah arrived.
Before I came to class, I had had breakfast.

Why did it happen?

I was worried about the meeting because I hadn't gotten extra points.

Useful words: before, after, already, because, by the time

Practice: past perfect

6 min

1 When I arrived, the film _____ (already / start).

2 She was sad because she _____ (lose) her phone.

3 _____ you _____ (eat) before you came?

4 He _____ (not do) his homework, so the teacher was angry.

5 Where _____ they _____ (live) before they moved?

6 Before I went to bed, I _____ (turn off) the TV.

Before... she had...

7 min

Complete about Nadia:
Before Nadia became a writer, she had ...
Before she wrote for National Geographic, she had ...
Before she found her dream job, she had ...



Ask a partner: What had you done before you started learning English? Before you came to class today?



Wrap-up and homework

3 min



Exit ticket

Write one sentence: What had you done before you came to class today?



Homework

Write 5 sentences about your life. Use before, because and the past perfect.



Next time

When does someone become an adult? Listen to a conversation about it.