

Transition: The pluperfect tense

1 Write a-j in French.

- a I had become _____
- b the girls had arrived _____
- c she had sent _____
- d he had learnt _____
- e there had been _____
- f we had wanted _____
- g we had fallen _____
- h I had been able to _____
- i the train had left _____
- j he had done _____

2 Complete these French translations of the English sentences.

- a *Had they arrived earlier, they would have met their friends.*
_____, ils auraient rencontré leurs amis.
- b *If she had gone to university, she would have had a better career.*
_____, elle aurait fait une meilleure carrière.
- c *Had we bought tickets, we could have gone to see the match at the stadium.*
_____, on aurait pu aller voir le match au stade.
- d *If he'd got up on time, he wouldn't have missed his train.*
_____, il n'aurait pas manqué son train.

3 Complete the sentences with your own ideas, but use verbs in the pluperfect tense. Then, translate your sentences into English.

- a Les enfants avaient _____

- b Elles étaient _____

- c Ma copine a dit qu'elle avait _____

- d Il a expliqué qu'il _____

- e Si tu _____

Grammaire

The pluperfect tense is used to say that something 'had happened'. Use the imperfect tense of *avoir* or *être* as appropriate and a past participle. If you use an *être* verb, remember that the past participle has to agree with the subject of the sentence: *elle était arrivée*.

Reminder: the imperfect tense of *avoir*: *avais, avais, avait, avions, aviez, avaient*.

The imperfect tense of *être*: *étais, étais, était, étions, étiez, étaient*.

Verbs that require *être*: *arriver, partir, entrer, sortir, aller, venir, monter, descendre, naître, mourir, revenir, retourner, rentrer, rester, tomber, devenir* and all reflexive verbs.

Astuce

Note that to say something like: 'Had they done ...' or 'If they had done ...', you should use *si* + pluperfect: *S'ils avaient fait ...*

Also note that *si* becomes *s'* only if the next word starts with an *i*- and not for other vowels.