

IN1 - Tema 6.2: Paco had had a dream about this before: New York bay had been frozen over for weeks



Paco had had a dream about this before: New York bay had frozen over for a couple of weeks

Inglés

1.º Bachillerato

Contenidos

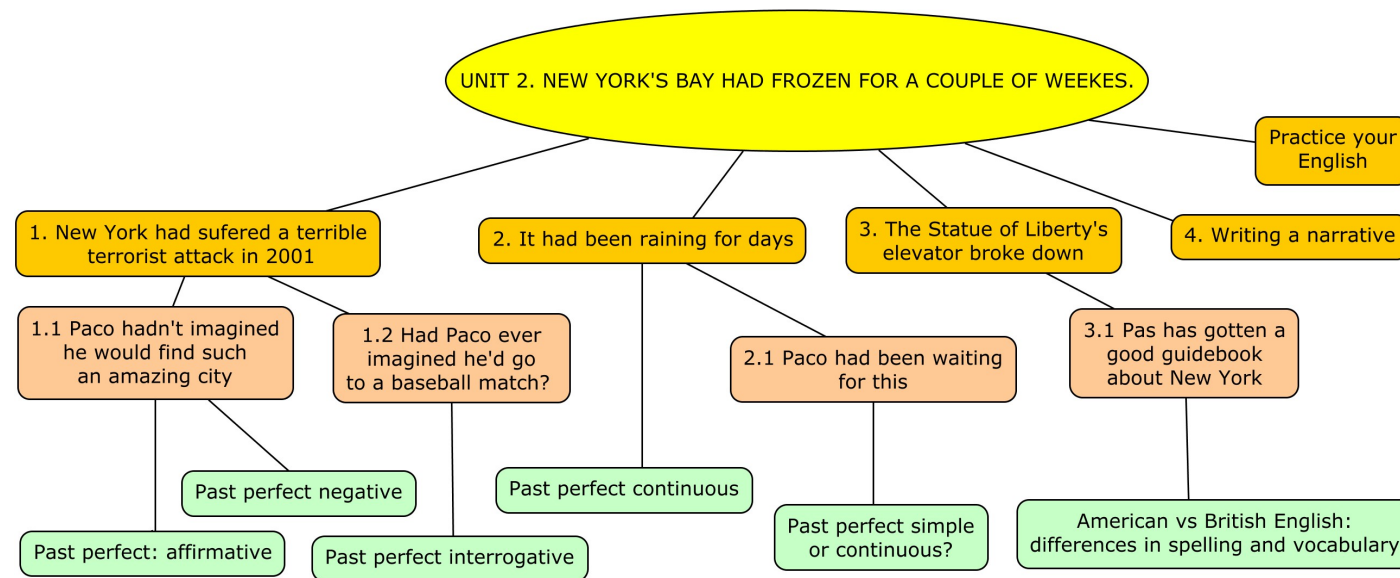
Paco had had a dream about this before:

New York bay had frozen over for a couple of weeks



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# Mapa conceptual



## Fuentes para el profesorado

Descarga del archivo CMAP

- [IN1\\_U6\\_T2\\_v01.cmap.pdf](#) (Ventana nueva)

# Introducción

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In this topic you are going to have another look at the Past Perfect Tense (simple and continuous) in affirmative, negative and interrogative forms. You will also learn some differences in spelling and pronunciation between British English and American English. It'll be fun. Let's go!



## Actividad de lectura

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Paco was worried because, before he ~~came~~ to New York, he had seen in The New York Times online that New York Bay had been frozen for two weeks. He was really concerned about the bad weather conditions here. But, luckily the temperature had gradually increased and it wasn't so cold.

He had also read a lot about this amazing place, for instance, that it is a leading global city and that it has a powerful influence over worldwide commerce, finance, culture, fashion and entertainment.

Paco had also learned that the average temperature in January, New York City's coldest month, is 32 °F (0 °C). However temperatures in winter could be lower for a few days and reach -12 °C .

Located on a large natural harbor on the Atlantic coast of the Northeastern United States, New York consists of five boroughs: The Bronx, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, and Staten Island. The most recent estimate stated that the population had exceeded 8.5 million people, which made "the Big Apple" the most densely populated major city in the United States.



Imagen de [Nikopoley](#). Dominio público.

**Try to identify in the text six forms of the Past Perfect in affirmative.**

- 1) he **had seen** in The New York Times
- 2) New York's bay **had been frozen** for two weeks
- 3) the temperature **had gradually increased**
- 4) He **had read** a lot about this amazing place
- 5) Paco **had also learned** that the average temperature in January
- 6) The most recent estimate stated that the population **had exceeded** 8.5 million people



## Importante

The *past perfect tense* is often used in English when we are relating two events which happened in the past. It helps to show which event happened first.

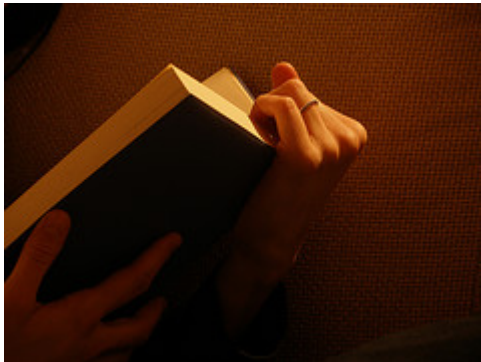


Imagen de [the\\_bbg](#). Licencia CC.

*We went to buy the book that the teacher **had mentioned** in the History lesson.*

### USES OF THE PAST PERFECT TENSE

#### 1. Completed action before something in the past.

The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past. It can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.

*Her father **had been** married twice before he married her mother.*

*Sonia knew the city well because she **had visited** London several times.*

## **2. Duration before something in the past (non continuous verbs).**

With [Non-Continuous Verbs](#) and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past.

*We didn't feel well when we sold the house because we **had lived** there for over 20 years.  
He finally saw the girl he **had imagined** so many times before.*

## **3. Conditional sentences type III.**

*If you **had studied** harder, you would have passed the examination.*

## **4. Reported speech.**

We often use the past perfect tense in reported speech after verbs like **said, told, asked, thought, wondered**:

*He told us that he **had missed** the bus.  
The teacher asked the students why they **hadn't finished** the task.*



## Curiosidad

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Watch this video to get an idea of what New York city could be like.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/WR3Mhe\\_1Eq8](http://www.youtube.com/embed/WR3Mhe_1Eq8)

Video de [YouTube](#) de [Lenny Kravits](#)



## Para saber más

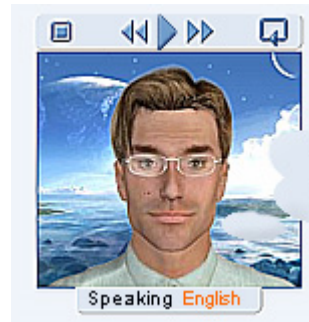
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If you are interested in lots of curiosities in Spanish about the city of New York, then click [here and enjoy it.](#)

Do you need a dictionary? [Try this one.](#)

And what about a grammar online? It may help you a lot. [Have a look here.](#)

If you have problems as to how to pronounce a word, use our interactive teacher Mike who will be most delighted to help you.



Click [here](#) to use Mike

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## 1. New York had suffered a terrible terrorist attack in 2001(past perfect affirmative)

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We'll go through the Past Perfect Tense. First of all, we will study the form. Then we will go back to 2001 when New York city suffered a devastating terrorist attack by Muslim terrorists.



### Importante

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Take a look at this video to help you understand the formation and use of past perfect:

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/9tpuq9xoyZs](http://www.youtube.com/embed/9tpuq9xoyZs)

Video de [Bluebloc Notes \(Aprender Inglés\)](#) en [Youtube](#)

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### Importante

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#### ADVERB PLACEMENT

Look at the examples to see the position of adverbs such as *always*, *only*, *never*, *ever* and *just*.

*Paco had **only** been out of Spain once before he started his round-the-world trip.*

Had he **ever** been to New York before?



Imagen de [Stuck in Customs](#). Licencia [CC](#).

That's right, they are placed between the auxiliary verb *have* and the past participle (just like the Present Perfect):



## Para saber más

This tense is formed using two components: the auxiliary verb *have* (in the past tense), and the *past participle* form of a verb. With a regular verb the past participle ends with *-ed* (just like the simple past). [Irregular verbs](#) have a special past participle form that you have to learn by heart. Try this [practice activity](#).



## Ejercicio Resuelto

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1. My friends talked about the movie they \_\_\_\_\_ ( watch).
  2. The teacher corrected the tests that the students \_\_\_\_\_( write).
  3. My father lived in the house that their parents \_\_\_\_\_( build).
  4. I passed my driving license test because I \_\_\_\_\_( study) a lot.
  5. Ana was in hospital because she \_\_\_\_\_( have) an accident.

**Write the verbs in Past Perfect Tense.**

1. My friends talked about the movie they **had watched**.
2. The teacher corrected the tests that the students **had written**.
3. My father lived in the house that their parents **had built**.
4. I passed my driving license test because I **had studied** a lot.
5. Ana was in hospital because she **had had** an accident.



## Comprueba lo aprendido

**Say if the following statements about the uses of the Past Perfect are true or false.**

- 1) The Past Perfect expresses the idea that something occurred before another action in the past.  
☐ a) True.

☐ b) False.

Right. Besides, it can also show that something happened before a specific time in the past.

For example: I couldn't get in my house because I had lost the key.

Wrong.

Solución

1. Opción correcta

2. Incorrecto

2) The Past Perfect is used in conditional sentences type II.

☐ a) True.

☐ b) False.

Wrong. The Past Perfect is used in conditional sentences type III, for example :If you had come earlier, we would have seen you.

Right. The Past Perfect is used in conditional sentences type III and the action can't be fulfilled because it has taken place in the past.

For example: If you had come earlier, we would have seen you.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

3) We use the Past Perfect to show that something started in the past and continued up until another action in the past.

- ☐ a) True.
- ☐ b) False.

Correct. For example, We had been living in London for 5 years before we decided to have a baby.

Wrong.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto



Curiosidad

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September 11 attacks



Imagen de [LX](#). Dominio público.

The **September 11 attacks** (often referred to as **September 11th** or **9/11\***) were a series of coordinated suicide attacks by al-Qaeda upon the United States on September 11, 2001. On that morning, 19 al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. The hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing everyone on board and many others working in the buildings. Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying nearby buildings and damaging others. The hijackers [crashed](#) a third airliner into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville in rural Pennsylvania after some of its passengers and flight [crew](#) attempted to retake control of the plane, which the [hijackers](#) had redirected toward Washington, D.C. There were no survivors from any of the flights.

2,973 victims and the 19 hijackers died as a result of the attacks. The overwhelming majority of [casualties](#) were civilians, including nationals of over 90 countries. In addition, the death of at least one person from lung disease was ruled by a medical examiner to be a result of [exposure](#) to dust from the World Trade Center's collapse.

The United States responded to the attacks by launching a War on Terrorism, invading Afghanistan to depose the Taliban, who had harbored al-Qaeda terrorists, and enacting the USA PATRIOT Act. Many other countries also [strengthened](#) their anti-terrorism legislation and expanded law enforcement powers. Some American stock exchanges stayed closed for the rest of the week following the attack, and posted enormous [losses](#) upon reopening, especially in the airline and insurance industries. The destruction of billions of dollars worth of office space caused serious damage to the economy of Lower Manhattan.

The [damage](#) to the Pentagon was cleared and repaired within a year, and the Pentagon Memorial was built on the site. The rebuilding process has started on the World Trade Center site. In 2006 a new office tower was completed on the site of 7 World

Trade Center. 1 World Trade Center is currently under construction at the site and, at 1,776 ft (541 m) upon completion in 2013, it will become one of the tallest buildings in North America. Three more towers were originally expected to be built between 2007 and 2012 on the site. Ground was broken for the Flight 93 National Memorial on November 8, 2009, and the first phase of construction is expected to be ready for the 10th anniversary of the attacks on September 11, 2011.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

*\* In the USA, dates are normally written month/day (in the UK, it's day/month). That's why the attacks on 11th September are called 9/11 and not 11/9.*

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## Para saber más

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[Learn about the Past Perfect](#) with explanations in Spanish.

[Now learn here about the Past Perfect](#) with explanations in English.

You can practice doing some exercises on the Past Perfect Tense.

[Exercise 1](#) [Exercise 2](#) [Exercise 3](#)

[Exercise 4](#) [Exercise 5](#) [Exercise 6](#)

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## 1.1. Paco had not imagined he would find such an amazing city (past perfect negative)

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Once we have studied the Past Perfect in affirmative, now we are going to go through the negative form. Do you remember the Present Perfect negative form? Well, the same applies to this tense, but with the past form of the verb *have*.



### Curiosidad

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#### The New York Times



***The New York Times*** is an American daily newspaper founded in 1851 and published in New York City. The largest metropolitan newspaper in the United States, 'The Gray Lady'—named for its staid appearance and style—is regarded as a national newspaper of record. *The Times* is owned by The New York Times Company, which publishes eighteen other newspapers, including the *International Herald Tribune* and *The Boston Globe*. The company's chairman is Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr., whose family has controlled the paper since 1896.

The paper's motto, as printed in the upper left-hand corner of the front page, is 'All the News That's Fit to Print.' It is organized into sections: News, Opinions, Business, Arts, Science, Sports, Style, and Features. *The Times* stayed with the eight-column format for several years after most papers switched to six columns, and it was one of the last newspapers to adopt color photography. *The Times* has won 101 Pulitzer Prizes, the most of any news organization. Its web site was the most popular American online newspaper Web site as of December 2008, receiving more than 18 million unique visitors in that month.

Imagen de [Americasroof](#). Licencia [CC](#).

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).





## Actividad de lectura

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1) According to the text, can you infer the meaning of these words: daily, owned, whose, motto.

2) Complete this sentence with the information provided above:

The New York Times is also known as \_\_\_\_\_ because of its staid appearance and style.

3) Say if the following sentences are true or false:

- Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. is the company's chairman.
- *The Times* stays with the eight-column format nowadays.
- The New York Times was one of the last newspapers to adopt color photography.

**Answer these questions on the curiosity text about the New York Times newspaper.**

1) According to the text, can you infer the meaning of these words: daily, owned, whose.

***daily*:** diariamente, todos los días.

**Note:** We can add \_LY to periods of time to mean at this interval. hour>hourly, week> weekly, month>monthly

***owned*:** propiedad de.

***whose*:** cuya.

**motto:** lema

2) Complete this sentence with the information provided above:

The New York Times is also known as ***The Gray Lady*** because of its staid appearance and style.

3) Say if the following sentences are true or false:

- Arthur Ochs Sulzberger Jr. is the company's chairman. **True.**
- *The Times* uses with the eight-column format nowadays. **False.**
- The New York Times was one of the last newspapers to adopt colour photography. **True.**



## Reflexiona

The auxiliary verb *have* (in the past tense) is usually contracted in the negative form of the Past Perfect Tense. For negative sentences in the past perfect tense, we insert **not** between the auxiliary verb and main verb.

*Paco hadn't written a letter to his family for a long time.*  
(*had + not = hadn't*)



## Ejercicio Resuelto

- 1) My father was afraid because he \_\_\_\_\_ ( **fly** ) on a plane before.
- 2) I didn't pass the exam. I \_\_\_\_\_ ( **study** ) much.
- 3) Mike's dog was really hungry because he \_\_\_\_\_ ( **feed** ) it since Tuesday.

4) They \_\_\_\_\_ ( **see** ) their family in London for a long time.

5) He was exhausted. He \_\_\_\_\_ ( **sleep** ) at all the night before.

Complete the sentences using the negative form of past perfect. Use the short form.

1) My father was afraid because he **hadn't flown** on a plane before.

2) I didn't pass the exam. I **hadn't studied** much.

3) Mike's dog was really hungry because he **hadn't fed** it since Tuesday.

4) They **hadn't seen** their family in London for a long time.

5) He was exhausted. He **hadn't slept** at all the night before.



## Comprueba lo aprendido

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Read the paragraph below and fill in the missing words with the past perfect negative forms of the verbs in brackets.

In the shopping centre I met a friend that I   (see) for ages. He   (be) in my city since I was a child. He told me that he   (hear) anything about me for a long time and he   (write) to me because he didn't know my current address. That's why he   (keep) in touch with me.

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## Para saber más

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[Practise here](#) with the negative form of the Past Perfect.

[Have a look at this website](#) to focus on negative constructions with the Past Perfect.

By [wvlliepoon](#). Creative Commons.

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It's not too difficult, is it? Let's finish this tense with the interrogative form in the next section.

## 1.2. Had Paco ever imagined he would go to a baseball match?(past perfect interrogative)

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The interrogative form of the Past Perfect has the same structure as the interrogative form in the Present Perfect. We're sure you still remember it. Let's have a look at it.



### Actividad de lectura

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A few years ago, had Paco ever imagined he would go to a baseball match? No, he hadn't.

In New York he managed to get a ticket to see an important match of the New York Yankees against the Boston Red Sox, another outstanding baseball team, in the new Yankee Stadium.

How had Paco managed to find a ticket for such an important match? Well, he had bumped into someone in a bar while he was having a drink. He had heard this man speaking about the possibility of getting some tickets for the match, so Paco asked them about it and joined them for a drink.

These people told Paco that the Yankees name is often shortened to *the Yanks*. Their most prominently used nickname is "*the Bronx Bombers*" or simply "*the Bombers*", a reference to their home and their powerful hitting.

They also told Paco that their rivalry with the Boston Red Sox is by far the fiercest in North American professional sports history.



Imagen de [Jleon](#). Licencia [CC](#).

Identify a couple of interrogative forms of the past perfect tense in the text.

VOCABULARY TIPS:

*to manage*: apañárselas, darse maña.

*to bump into*: tropezarse con, encontrarse con

\*\*\*\*\*

- 1) **Had** Paco ever **imagined** he would attend a baseball match?
- 2) How **had** Paco **managed** to find a ticket for such an important match?



## Importante

### Past perfect + just

**Just** is used with the past perfect to refer to an event that was only a short time earlier than the other past action:

*The burglars had just entered the house when the owner arrived.*



*The burglars had just driven away when the police arrived.*

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## Comprueba lo aprendido

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Choose the most appropriate answer to complete these questions in the past perfect tense.

1) \_\_\_\_\_ in New York before she moved to Madrid?

- ☐ a) Had your sister lived
- ☐ b) Had lived your sister

Correct.

Wrong. The interrogative structure is HAD + SUBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE + COMPLEMENTS.

Solución

- 1. Opción correcta
- 2. Incorrecto

2) \_\_\_\_\_ the bell many times before I opened the door?

- ☐ a) did you have rung
- ☐ b) had you rung

Wrong. The auxiliary *do* is not used to form the past perfect.



Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

3) \_\_\_\_\_ their tests before they gave them to the teacher?

- ☐ a) Have the students checked
- ☐ b) Had the students checked

Wrong. The past perfect is used with the past of the auxiliary verb *to have (had)*.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta



## Ejercicio Resuelto

1) What \_\_\_\_\_ before he started the lesson? (the teacher/explain)

- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ London before 1987? (your parents/visit)
- 3) How long \_\_\_\_\_ in that house before your family sold it? (you/live)
- 4) How long \_\_\_\_\_ in jail before his lawyer arrived? (John/be)
- 5) Why \_\_\_\_\_ doing their homework before you arrived? (the children/stop)

**Complete the questions in Past Perfect Simple with the verbs given.**

- 1) What had the teacher explained before he started the lesson?
- 2) Had your parents visited London before 1987?
- 3) How long had you lived in that house before your family sold it?
- 4) How long had John been in jail before his lawyer arrived?
- 5) Why had the children stopped doing their homework before you arrived?



**Curiosidad**

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### **Baseball**

The **New York Yankees** are a professional baseball team based in the borough of the Bronx, in New York City, New York and are a member of Major League Baseball's American League East Division. One of the American League's eight charter franchises, the club was founded in Baltimore, Maryland in 1901 as the Baltimore



Imagen de [The Silent Wind of Doom](#). Licencia [CC](#).

Orioles, and moved to New York City in 1903, becoming known as the New York Highlanders before being officially renamed the "Yankees" in 1913. From 1923 to 2008, the Yankees' home ballpark was Yankee Stadium, one of the world's most famous sports venues. In 2009, they moved into a new stadium, also called "Yankee Stadium".

The franchise is the defending World Champion of Major League Baseball and lead the League in both revenue and titles, with 27 World Series championships and 40 American League Pennants. They have more championships than any other franchise in North American professional sports history, passing the 24 Stanley Cup championships by the Montreal Canadians in 1999. Throughout the team's history, the franchise has produced some of the most celebrated players in Major League history,

including Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Joe DiMaggio, Mickey Mantle, and Yogi Berra. The franchise has seen 44 of its players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame, and the Yankees have retired the numbers of 16 of its players.

The Yankees have achieved [widespread](#) popularity and a dedicated fanbase, although they have acquired a [polarizing](#) reputation for their heavy spending in pursuit of winning. Their [rivalry](#) with the Boston Red Sox is arguably the fiercest and most historic in North American professional sports. To support the Yankees and expand their media [coverage](#), the dedicated television channel YES Network was [launched](#) in 2002, and it has become a large source of revenue for the franchise.

Taken from [Wikipedia](#).

A song strongly linked to the Yankees team is *New York, New York*, which is played in the stadium after home games. The Frank Sinatra cover version is traditionally played after victories.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/aqJl1LfDP4](http://www.youtube.com/embed/aqJl1LfDP4)

Video de [Zdenek Gazda](#) en [Youtube](#)

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## Para saber más

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[Click here](#) to revise the formation of the interrogative form of the past perfect.

Watch the video below about the New York Yankees and you will see lots of symbols related to them.



Video de [Frankie J. Galasso](#) en [Youtube](#)

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We have finished with the Past Perfect Tense. Although in our topics we study British English, we should learn some differences with American English. Later in this topic 2 we'll focus on vocabulary and spelling differences.

## 2. It had been raining for days (past perfect continuous)

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### Actividad de lectura

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Read this text about Paco and answer these questions :

What two things are making Paco lose patience?

Now that he had been there a few days in the Big Apple, Paco was starting to feel at home. However, there was one thing he couldn't get used to- the weather! It had been raining for days now and everywhere was soaked and there were puddles on the pavements. Paco hadn't been expecting such bad weather on his visit so he felt very frustrated that he couldn't do everything he wanted because of the bad weather. Who wants to go to Central park when it is pouring down?

Another thing that annoyed Paco is that he hadn't been able to phone his family in Spain. He had been trying and trying but no luck. In fact he had phoned them about twenty times but he couldn't get through.

This morning however, things started to go right. When he looked out it had stopped raining. There was water everywhere but no one was using an umbrella. At that moment the phone rang- it was his sister! She asked him what he had been doing recently. It was wonderful to hear from her after all this time. next time they'll use skype.



Imagen de [Ewen Roberts](#) en Flickr. Licencia [CC](#)

the weather and not being able to speak to his family



## Importante

The past perfect continuous isn't very common but you need to know how to use it anyway. Look at these examples to see how it is formed:

*It **had been raining** for days now and everywhere was soaked*

*Paco **hadn't been expecting** such bad weather on his visit*

*He **had been trying** and trying*

*She asked him what he **had been doing** recently. ("What have you been doing recently?")*



We use **HAD/HADN'T +BEEN + \_\_\_\_\_ING**

*We use past perfect continuous to:*

*i) talk about a continuous activity occurring up to a point in the past.*

*ii) to emphasise an activity that has a result in the past*

*ii) in reported speech to report past continuous and present perfect continuous*



## Comprueba lo aprendido

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### Practice

Complete the sentences with the verbs in past perfect continuous.

1. When the bus arrived, they  for 1 hour. (wait)
  2. They  for hours when John woke them up. (sleep)
  3. It  for hours- everything was white. (snow)
  4. I looked outside and saw that the ground was wet- it . (rain)
  5. We  next door to Mary for 3 months before we finally met her.(live)
  6. I  long when Joe arrived. (not wait)
  7. He  her for weeks before he finally asked her out.(watch)
-

## 2.1 Paco had been waiting for this (past perfect continuous v simple)

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### Importante

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#### Past perfect continuous or simple?

i) Remember that some verbs (the stative) are never used in the continuous, e.g. belong, know, own, etc.

ii) To emphasise the activity use the continuous. To talk about things completed, use the simple:

*He had been writing letters when I arrived.* (we don't say how many- emphasis on activity)

*He had written 20 letters when I arrived.* ~~He had been writing 20 letters~~ (because it means that he didn't finish any letters)

iii) sometimes they can both be used but simple indicates more permanence:

*The castle had stood on the rock for hundreds of years until it was destroyed by the Romans.*

*The man had been standing there for hours- he was absolutely soaked.*

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### Comprueba lo aprendido

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Decide which of these sentences use the correct form of the past perfect.

1. When I arrived, John had cooked dinner.



☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Verdadero**

Dinner was ready and then I arrived.

We could also write it in the continuous- this doesn't indicate if dinner is ready but that the kitchen has been used.

2. John had been cutting onions in the kitchen so his eyes were red.

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Verdadero**

The emphasis is on the activity (cutting onions) which has a result in the past (red eyes)

3. I had been finishing 30 reports that day so I was tired when I got home.

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Falso**

If we say a number of things completed, we use simple. The continuous means the 30 reports are not finished!

4. He was angry because I had been crashing into his car.

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Falso**

..I had crashed (because we do it once. Had been crashing means you did it again and again and again, which isn't very probable)

5. "What have you been doing" >We asked him what he had done.

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Falso**

we asked him what he had been doing (original + reported speech in continuous)

6. How long had you known Mary before you got married?

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Verdadero**

Simple because know is a stative verb.

8. The police couldn't arrest the thieves because they had been running away.

☐ Verdadero ☐ Falso

**Falso**

.. they had run away. If the police can't arrest them then the action is complete



## Comprueba lo aprendido

Lea el párrafo que aparece abajo y complete las palabras que faltan.

I'm sorry I went without you last night, but I asked you to meet me early because the show started at 7:00 and I was worried I wouldn't make it. As you know, I  (look) forward to going to that show for months and I didn't want to miss it. Before I left the bar, I  (send)you a dozen messages and you  (not reply) so I thought maybe you  (forget). Anyway, I had to leave because I  (arrange) to meet Jane outside the theatre. When I got there, Jane  (already, pick up) the tickets. She was furious because she  (wait)for over 20 minutes and



the show was about to start. She said she  
 (almost, decide) to go in  
without me.

Anyway, we saw the show and it was great but Jane was really angry  
with you. She said that she  
 (miss) several films  
because you  (arrive)  
late. So I really think you should apologise.

Imagen de [Rich smith](#) en Flickr. Licencia [CC](#)

### 3. The Statue of Liberty's elevator broke down (American vocabulary)

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Just the same way as Spanish is different in Spain and Latin America, so there are differences in pronunciation and vocabulary between British and American English. Sometimes it may be funny. Anyhow, it is a good way to enlarge your vocabulary.



#### Comprueba lo aprendido

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Watch the video about British and American English vocabulary and complete the gaps with these words:

**crisps, soda, elevator, pants, french fries, movie**

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/GwbpY4eNOgE](http://www.youtube.com/embed/GwbpY4eNOgE)

Video de [British Council Hong Kong](#) en [Youtube](#)

#### British English

trousers

chips

#### American English

chips

lift

film

fizzy drink

sidewalk



## Reflexiona

While there are certainly many more varieties of English, American and British English are the two varieties that are taught in most English as a Secondary Language programs. Generally, it is agreed that no one version is correct. However, there are certainly preferences in use.

The most important rule is to try to be consistent in your usage. If you decide that you want to use American English spellings then you must be consistent in your spelling and the vocabulary you are going to use.

Probably the major differences between British and American English lie in the choice of vocabulary. Some words mean different things in the two varieties.



A *bank note* is preferred in the United Kingdom.

However, American English prefers the word *bill*.



## Ejercicio Resuelto

From the context , try to guess the equivalent of these American English underlined words/phrases are in British English:

- 1) We went on vacation to Florida last month.
- 2) Can I use the eraser? I've made a mistake.
- 3) She gave him nothing for his birthday. She's rather mean!
- 4) "Atchoo!" "Gesundheit!"
- 5) My brother takes the subway to work everyday.
- 6) After drinking 3 beers, he asked the waitress where the restroom was.



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Imagen de [Zscout370](#). Dominio público.

1) vacation= *holiday* in British English.

2) eraser= *rubber* in British English.

3) mean= *nasty* in British English.

4) Gesundheit= Bless you in British English.

5) subway = *Underground* in British English in London, *the Tube*).

6) restroom= public toilet in British English



## Comprueba lo aprendido

Choose the words used in American English.

1) Don't forget to take the letter to the \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ a) Post Office.
- ☐ b) Mail Office.

Wrong. This is used in British English.

Correct. American English also prefers *mailman* instead of *postman*.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta



2) Did you buy the \_\_\_\_\_ ticket for Long Island?

- ☐ a) one-way
- ☐ b) single.

Correct.

Wrong. This is used in British English.

Solución

- 1. Opción correcta
- 2. Incorrecto

3) Would you like to have some \_\_\_\_\_ for dinner?

- ☐ a) french fries
- ☐ b) chips

Correct.

Wrong. This is most commonly used in Britain.

Solución

- 1. Opción correcta
- 2. Incorrecto

4) Please, don't let your dog walk alone by the \_\_\_\_\_.

- ☐ a) pavement
- ☐ b) sidewalk

Wrong. This word is used in British English.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta



Curiosidad

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### American and British English differences

The English language was first introduced to the American people by British colonization, beginning in the early 17th century. Similarly, the language spread to numerous other parts of the world as a result of British trade and colonization elsewhere and the spread of the former British Empire, which, by 1921, held sway over a population of about 470–570 million people: approximately a quarter of the world's population at that time.



Imagen de [Pete Souza](#). Dominio público.

Over the past 400 years, the form of the language used in the Americas—especially in the United States—and that used in the British Isles have diverged in a few minor ways, [leading](#) to the dialects now occasionally referred to as American English and British English. Differences between the two include pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary (lexis), spelling, punctuation, idioms, formatting of dates and numbers, and so on, although the differences in written and most spoken grammar structure tend to be much more minor than those of other aspects of the language in terms of mutual [intelligibility](#). A small number of words have completely different meanings between the two dialects or are even unknown or not used in one of the dialects. One particular contribution towards formalizing these differences came from Noah Webster, who wrote the first American dictionary (published 1828) with the intention of showing that people in the United States spoke a different dialect from Britain, much like a regional accent.

Nevertheless, it remains the case that although spoken American and British English are generally mutually intelligible, there are enough differences to cause occasional [misunderstandings](#) or at times embarrassment – for example, some words that are quite innocent in one dialect may be considered vulgar in the other.



## Para saber más

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For a more complete list of the vocabulary differences between British and American English you can use this [British vs. American English vocabulary tool](#).

A very good website about [spelling differences](#) between English and American English.

A few words for you to take into account. Watch the differences in vocabulary.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/xS6S3PtRG8E](http://www.youtube.com/embed/xS6S3PtRG8E)

Video de [AwesomeEnglishVids](#) en [Youtube](#)

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### 3.1. Paco has gotten a good guidebook about New York (British or American English?)

---

We are coming to the end of this topic. Now it's turn to learn some hints about the differences in spelling between British and American English.



#### Reflexiona

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There are some well-known spelling differences between British English and American English.

Many of these spelling differences derive from French influence on the English language. British English has a tendency to keep the spelling of many words with a French origin. Americans try to spell words more closely to the way they sound phonetically and they tend to miss out some letters.

*For example:*

(Br E) *harbour* / *harbor* (Am E)

(Br E) *colour* / *color* (Am E)



## Importante

Some general spelling differences between British and American English are listed below.

BRITISH ENGLISH	AMERICAN ENGLISH
<b>-our:</b> behaviour	<b>-or:</b> behavior
<b>-re:</b> centre	<b>-er:</b> center
<b>-se:</b> apologise	<b>-ze:</b> apologize

- <b>l:</b> skilful	- <b>ll:</b> skillful
- <b>ogue:</b> catalogue	- <b>og:</b> catalog
- <b>ence:</b> defence	- <b>ense:</b> defense
- <b>gramme:</b> programme	- <b>gram:</b> program

In American English the past participle of the verb *get* is ***gotten***.

*Paco has just gotten a good guidebook about New York.*

*Paco has just got a good guidebook about New York. (British English)*



## Ejercicio Resuelto

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1) Color. 5) Enrollment.

- 2) Theater. 6) Analyse.
- 3) Centre. 7) Kilogram.
- 4) Travelling. 8) Dialogue.

**Say which of these words are commonly used in British or American English.**

- 1) Color. American English.
- 2) Theater. American English.
- 3) Centre. British English.
- 4) Travelling. British English.
- 5) Enrolment. American English.
- 6) Analyse. British English.
- 7) Kilogram. American English.
- 8) Dialogue. British English.



**Importante**

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**Remember!**



In British English, verbs that end in **-l** preceded by a vowel usually double the final **-l** when a suffix **-ed/-ing** is added:

(Br E) *parallel**ed*** / *parallel**ed*** (Am E)

(Br E) *travell**ing*** / *travel**ing*** (Am E)

In American English the final **-l** is doubled only when the last syllable is stressed:

(Br E) *fulfil* / *fulfill* (Am E)

(Br E) *skilful* / *skillful* (Am E)



## Comprueba lo aprendido

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Say if the following spellings are used in British or American English.

1) litre.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Correct.

Wrong. American English spelling is *liter*.

---

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

2) humor.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Wrong. British English spelling is *humour*.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

3) enrollment.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Wrong. British English spelling is *enrolment*.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

4) gramme.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Correct.

Wrong. American English spelling is *gram*.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto

5) gotten.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Wrong. British English spelling is *got*.

Correct.

Solución

1. Incorrecto
2. Opción correcta

6) criticise.

- ☐ a) British.
- ☐ b) American.

Correct.

Wrong. American English spelling is *criticize*.

Solución

1. Opción correcta
2. Incorrecto



**Para saber más**

[Spelling differences](#) between British and American English.

The main differences between American and British English spellings can be found [here](#).

Watch the video to have a quick look at the differences we have seen above.

[Enlace a recurso reproducible >> http://www.youtube.com/embed/1B6sNeUazqo](http://www.youtube.com/embed/1B6sNeUazqo)

Video de [in30tv](#) en [Youtube](#)

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You have finally reached the end of the topic. You have learned the Past Perfect Tense as well as some differences in both vocabulary and spelling between British and American English. Congratulations!

## 4. Writing a narrative (Narrative tenses, linkers)

---

In this section we have looked at the past perfect. This tense is very useful when writing narratives.

We use it in conjunction with the past simple and the past continuous.

Have a look at this example from slideshare ( you only need to watch up to slide 25):

[http://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/embed\\_code/11551296](http://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/embed_code/11551296)

[Narrative tenses](#) from [David Nicholson](#)



### Importante

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So, when we write a narrative, we use:

**different tenses:** past simple, past continuous and past perfect

**conjunctions and time phrases:** then, later, after that, before

**a logical progression:** beginning, complication, end

and we think of a title!

For more help, look at [this writing guide](#) on bluebloc.

Commas CANNOT act as connectors: ~~He got up, he had breakfast, he went out.~~ He got up, he had breakfast AND he went out.



---

Write a narrative about the day Paco won the lottery. Use the narrative tenses (past simple, past perfect and past continuous) and the conjunctions and time phrases. Write 80-100 words.

Example:

Dreams sometimes come true

Paco woke up **late that day**. He had a headache because he **had drunk** too much at his friend Jose's party. **When** he opened his eyes, he realised that someone *was knocking* on the door. It was María, his neighbour.

"Hi, Paco, can I have a coffee?" she said

Paco wanted to say no because he *wasn't feeling* very well, and he wanted a shower but he let her in because she **had brought** the newspaper. He remembered that **the night before** he **had had** a dream that he **had won** the lottery. Of course, he knew dreams don't come true, but just in case....

**As soon as** he saw the numbers, he dropped the newspaper **and** started shouting. María got very worried **as** she thought he **had gone** crazy, **but when** he told her, she started shouting as well. Paco was rich, rich, rich!

**Bold**= past perfect

*Italics*= past continuous

red= time expressions and conjunctions

---

Click [here](#) to see examples of time expressions you can use.

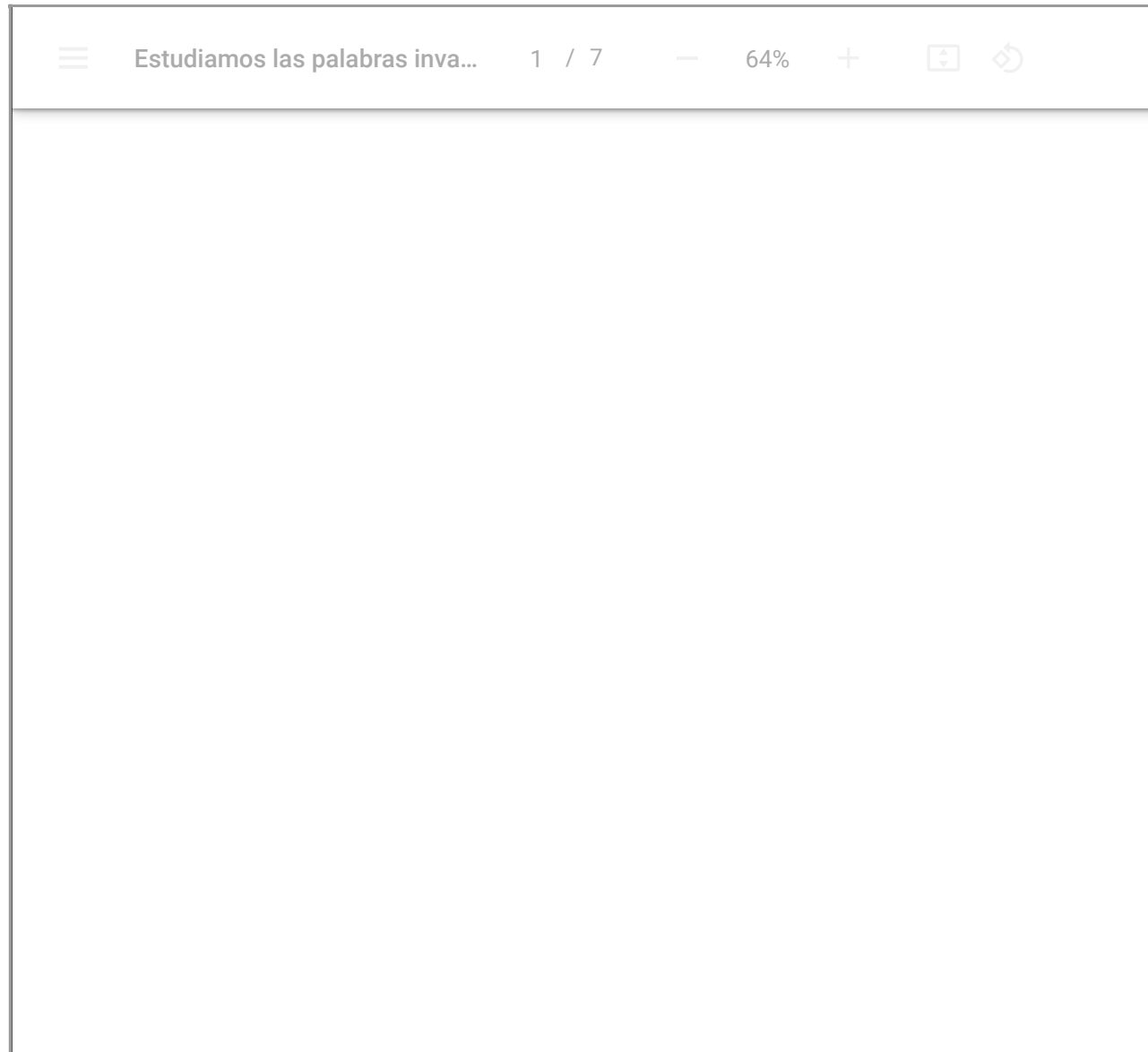
Click [here](#) to see examples of conjunctions.

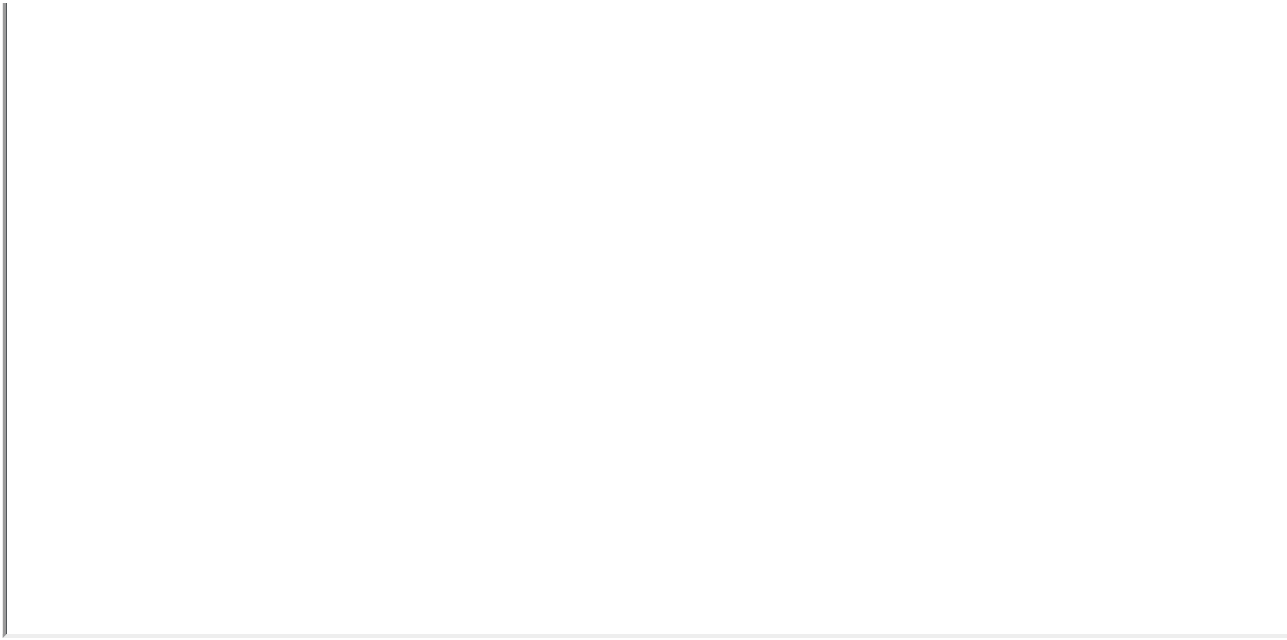


# Resumen

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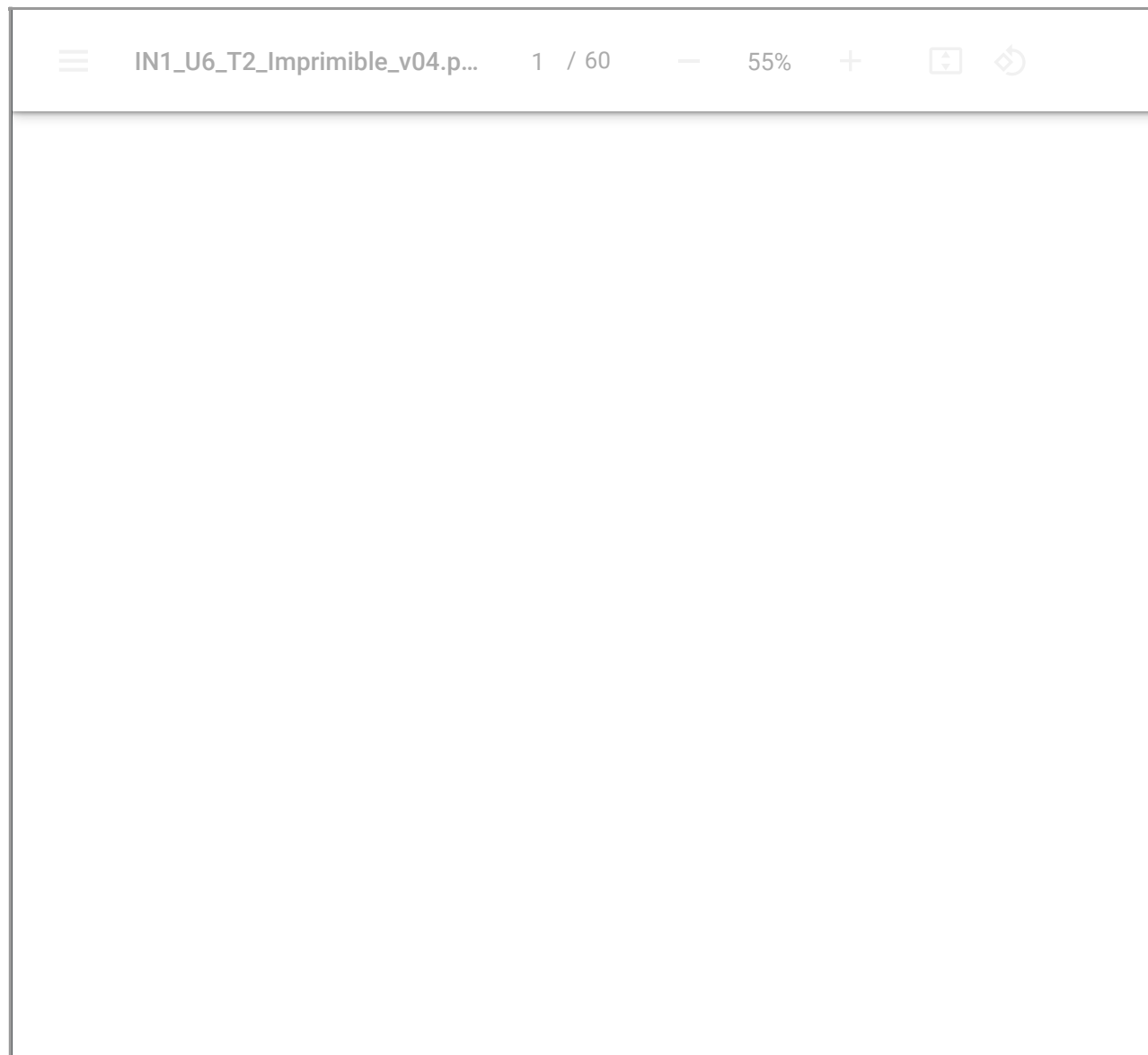




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