Past Perfect or Past Simple

1 Complete the gaps in these sentences with the best form of the verb in brackets (in each sentence one verb should be in the Past Perfect and the other(s) in the Past Simple). The first one is done for you.

a When the film .......... started .......... (start) Beth realised she .......... ’d seen .......... (see) it before.

b I ................. (be) surprised to find that Mr Cole ................. (leave) the city the day before.

c Helen ................. (feel) much better after she ................. (have) a good sleep.

d The rain ................. (stop) by the time we ................. (get) to the beach.

e Melissa ................. (be) angry because her brother ................. (eat) all the chocolates.

f When Julia ................. (meet) Scott she ................. (not realise) he ................. (be married) before.

g Geoff ................. (not see) his parents for fifteen years so he ................. (feel) rather nervous at the airport.

h The jazz singer ................. (sing) an old blues song that I ................. (never hear) before.

i When I ................. (write) the letter I ................. (post) it straightaway.

j Before Marti ................. (become) Mrs Stephens’ personal assistant she ................. (work) as a receptionist.

k After Sarah ................. (know) Alan for a few months he ................. (ask) her to have dinner with him.
Present Perfect or Past Perfect

2 a) Tick (✓) the correct ending for each of these sentences.

1 Greg felt terrified because
   a he’s never flown before. ✓
   b he’d never flown before.

2 How’s Susan?
   a I haven’t seen her for ages.
   b I hadn’t seen her for ages.

3 The group Just Girls are breaking up and
   a they’ve only been together for 3 months.
   b they’d only been together for 3 months.

4 We were all very tired because
   a we’ve just travelled back from Florida.
   b we’d just travelled back from Florida.

5 It’s the best restaurant
   a I’ve ever been to.
   b I’d ever been to.

6 The whole country was in shock because
   a the President has died.
   b the President had died.

7 It was the first time Juventus
   a have lost a match.
   b had lost a match.

8 What’s the matter?
   a You’ve been depressed all week.
   b You’d been depressed all week.

b) Complete these sentences with your own ideas (use either the Present Perfect or the Past Perfect).

1 This is the best meal …………………………………………………………………………..

2 It was the first time …………………………………………………………………………..

3 Dave was surprised because …………………………………………………………………

4 I’m not very hungry because …………………………………………………………………

5 Sue played really badly because…………………………………………………………….