

# FICHE DE GRAMMAIRE DU DEVOIR N°1

## LE PLUPERFECT

### A. FORME ET EMPLOI

- Il se forme comme le present perfect avec l'auxiliaire HAVE et le participe passé du verbe. Cependant, à la différence du present perfect, l'auxiliaire est au passé : **HAD**.

*He had finished.*

*Had he finished?*

*He had not finished.*

- Il correspond souvent au present perfect dans un contexte passé. Ainsi, il est souvent associé à des adverbes comme already, always, before, ever / never.

*When I arrived, he had already started.*

Quand je suis arrivé, il avait déjà commencé.

*I had never seen anything like that.*

Je n'avais jamais rien vu de pareil.

**A noter :** le pluperfect correspond souvent au plus-que-parfait français.

- On l'utilise pour bouleverser l'ordre des événements (ordre chronologique) et faire des retours en arrière. Ces "flash-back" ont souvent une valeur explicative.

#### **Ordre chronologique : prétérit**

*She accepted the offer. Then she was promoted.*

Elle accepta l'offre. Elle eut ensuite une promotion.

#### **Flash-back : pluperfect**

*She was promoted because she had accepted the offer.*

Elle eut une promotion parce qu'elle avait accepté l'offre.

### B. LE PLUPERFECT CONTINU

Comme le present perfect continu, il est formé avec HAVE + BE + -ING. Mais, à la différence du present perfect, l'auxiliaire HAVE est au passé : **HAD**. Il correspond au present perfect continu dans un contexte passé.

**Contexte présent : present perfect**

*I've been working here for two years now.*

Je travaille ici depuis deux ans.

### **Contexte passé : pluperfect**

*When I met him, he had been working there for two years.*

Quand je l'ai rencontré, il travaillait là depuis deux ans.

## **FOR - SINCE - AGO**

### **A. FOR**

FOR exprime la durée et peut être associé à plusieurs formes verbales.

#### **• FOR et le prétérit**

Le prétérit indique que l'action n'a aucun lien avec le présent. On traduit donc FOR par "pendant".

*He stayed with her for two days.*

Il est resté avec elle pendant deux jours.

#### **• FOR et le present perfect**

Le present perfect met en évidence le lien avec le présent. On traduit donc FOR par "depuis".

*He's been here for two days.*

Il est ici depuis deux jours.

### **B. SINCE**

SINCE exprime un lien entre le point de départ d'une action et le présent. C'est pourquoi le verbe principal est toujours au present perfect. SINCE est suivi d'une date ou d'une expression indiquant le point de départ de l'action. On peut trouver, à la place de la date, un verbe au prétérit. SINCE se traduit toujours par depuis.

*He's been here since Saturday.*

Il est ici depuis samedi.

*He's been here since she arrived.*

Il est ici depuis qu'elle est arrivée.

### **C. AGO**

AGO ne s'emploie qu'avec le prétérit car l'expression en AGO joue le rôle d'une date précise.

*He left two days ago.*

Il est parti il y a deux jours.

“Cliffie?” Edith called. “Have you got those drawers emptied yet?”  
A long wait as usual before he answered.

“Yes.”

His tone was feeble. Edith knew he hadn't emptied the chest of  
5 drawers<sup>1</sup>, though he had said he wanted to do it himself, so she went  
into his room – whose door was open – and with a cheerful air began  
to do it for him. Cliffie was upset about the move, Edith knew,  
though he'd seen the house and loved it and in a way was looking  
forward to moving.

10 “Can't get much done if you sit reading comic books,” Edith said.

She knew from his wide, dreamy eyes that he wasn't even reading,  
simply trying to lose himself in the fantasy world of talking animals,  
spacemen, or whatever it was.

15 “There's no hurry, is there?” Cliffie asked, hitching himself back<sup>2</sup>  
on his bed. He wore levis and a T-shirt which had University of  
California printed on it.

“No, darling, but we may as well do as much as we can today,  
because there'll be odds and ends<sup>3</sup> tomorrow morning, and the moving  
men are coming at eight, you know.”

20 Cliffie didn't answer, didn't move, and Edith went on loading a  
crate<sup>4</sup> with Cliffie's sweaters, folding them carelessly, dropping them.  
Then his pyjamas, then shirts.

“You ought to be *happy*, Cliffie. Aren't you happy, going to live in  
a real house – with land – all your own?”

25 “Sure.”

“Didn't any of your friends say...?” Edith tried to shake out a  
crumpled shirt from a bottom drawer and found that it was hopelessly  
stuck. With glue, apparently. Plainly it was tancolored glue, couldn't  
be anything else. “What happened to this?”

30 “Oh, I don't know.” Cliffie stuck his hands in the front pockets of  
his levis and walked from the room, head hanging.

Edith straightened and smiled. “It's not so serious, Cliffie. Let's be  
cheerful! We're going to the Chinese restaurant tonight!”

It was a good white shirt, however, and otherwise clean. Had  
35 Cliffie done it deliberately? What took out glue? Hot water? Edith drop-  
ped it into the crate-in-progress<sup>5</sup>, and went on with her work. [...]

Cliffie at that moment was gazing out the window of his parents'  
bedroom. He realized that his heart was beating faster. The move  
was real, not something he had imagined, otherwise the carpets  
40 wouldn't be up, the refrigerator wouldn't be nearly empty. Cliffie often  
imagined much more violent things, like a bomb going off under  
their apartment building, even under all of New York, the whole city  
going up sky-high with no survivors. But suddenly this, their moving  
to another state, was somehow like a real bomb going off under his  
45 own feet. He looked around the neatly stripped bedroom<sup>6</sup>, noticed  
the small leather-bound travel clock on his parents' night-table, and  
at once thought of hurling<sup>7</sup> it out the window. Cliffie imagined it hit-  
ting the pavement, maybe not breaking because of its leather cover,  
and imagined a stranger – delighted at having found something  
50 valuable – picking it up and pocketing it quickly, before anyone  
could notice him. Cliffie felt like breaking something, felt like hitting  
back<sup>8</sup> at his parents.

Adapted from *Edith's Diary*, Patricia HIGHSMITH.

1. chest of drawers: piece of furniture with drawers where you keep clothes and other things.
2. to hitch oneself back: to lean back.
3. odds and ends: various objects and things.
4. crate: large open case or box used for carrying items such as fruit, etc.
5. crate-in-progress: the crate that she was progressively filling.
6. stripped bedroom: almost all the furniture had been taken out.
7. to hurl: to throw violently.
8. to hit back at: to strike in return after you have been attacked.

## COMPETENCE LINGUISTIQUE (/15)

### I) Complete the following sentences with the right tense (10 pts)

1. Jane must get this postcard before I go back home. If you . . . . . (send) it today, it . . . . . (arrive) in time.
2. What shall I wear at the party? If I . . . . . (be) you, I . . . . . (wear) that blue dress you bought last year.
3. I was soaking wet when I came back home this afternoon. Well, if you . . . . . (listen) to the weather forecast last night, you . . . . . (take) your umbrella.
4. What a pity I can't afford that new record! If I . . . . . (have) enough money, I . . . . . (buy) it right away.
5. I'm so tired! I must get some sleep. Well, if you . . . . . (not watch) that stupid film until midnight, you . . . . . (not feel) exhausted now.

### II) Complete with FOR, SINCE or AGO (5 pts)

1. She's lost a lot of weight . . . . . her father had the accident.
2. They've been in India . . . . . a month.
3. There has been a record amount of rain . . . . . the beginning of the year.
4. How long . . . . . did she leave France?
5. They'd been waiting for his letter . . . . . weeks when it arrived.
6. They had hardly spoken to each other . . . . . years.
7. He has learnt a great deal about her life . . . . . he began his research.
8. They had been happily married . . . . . over thirty years when he suddenly left her.
9. The little boy hasn't been seen . . . . . last Tuesday.
10. They last saw each other twenty years . . . . .

## COMPREHENSION (/45)

1. Who are the characters? (Give their names) How are they probably related? (Build a proper sentence) (3 pts)
2. Where do they live and where are they moving to? (place and type of housing) (4 pts)
3. Tick four details from the text showing that they are moving. (4 pts)
  - Edith is loading a crate.
  - Cliffie is sitting in his bedroom, reading comic books.
  - Cliffie was gazing out of the windows.
  - The carpets are up.

- the refrigerator is nearly empty.
- the bedroom is neatly stripped.
- Cliffie imagined a stranger pocketing the travel-clock.

4. Complete the sentence Edith leaves unfinished : "Didn't any of your friends say..." (l. 26) (2 pts)

5. Pick out two details in Cliffie's physical behaviour showing he is depressed by the fact that they are moving. Quote from the text and indicate the lines. (2 pts)

6. Pick out four details showing his lack of cooperation. Quote from the text and indicate the lines. (4 pts)

7. How does Edith try to make the move easier for Cliffie? (Three quotations at least). Indicate the lines. (3 pts)

8. Pick out two sentences pronounced by Edith containing an implicit reproach. (2 pts)

9. Say in your own words what she reproaches Cliffie with. (3 pts)

10. According to you, why is there glue on Cliffie's shirt? Tick the most appropriate answer. (1 pt)

- Cliffie has just repaired his chest of drawers.
- Because they're going to the Chinese restaurant and he doesn't want to accompany his parents.
- It's an act of revenge because he doesn't want to move.
- the moving man put glue accidentally on his shirt.

11. According to the text, how does Cliffie escape from reality? (Two quotations at least.) Indicate the lines. (2 pts)

12. What words or sentences suggest an atmosphere of violence in the last paragraph? (Four quotations). Indicate the lines. (4 pts)

13. Translate from line 37 ("Cliffie") to line 43 ("no survivors") (11 pts)

### **EXPRESSION (/30)**

Choose one of the following subjects. (300 words)

1. Do you think there is an important generation gap between teenagers and their parents or adults in general? Is there a serious lack of mutual understanding? Are there any particular topics on which you personally agree or disagree with them?

**OR**

2. Did you ever have to live through an important change in your life? Describe your feelings before, during and after the event.