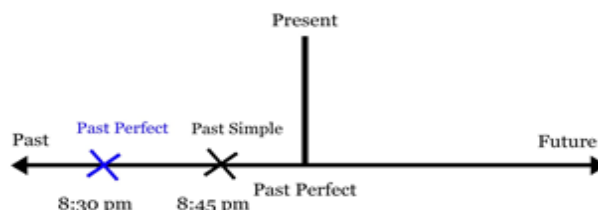# Grammar Reference

1. Grammar Reference (Please remember that this grammar reference section is not a lesson plan for teachers. In fact, it is and should be designed in such a way that students can comprehend the grammar points on their own.)

Past Perfect
Form:

> Past Perfect form: **had/hadn't + past participle**

The film had started, before we arrived.

Simple Past is used to talk about something that happened in the past.

Example: I *saw* a movie yesterday.

I *didn't see* a play yesterday.

Past Perfect is used to talk about what happened before that.

Example: She *had established* her company before 2008.

He *had* never *played* football until last week.

Past Perfect is used to make the order of event clear.

Example: She *stayed up* all night because she *had received* bad news.

They *lost* many of the games because they *had not practiced* enough.

Notes: Do not use the past perfect when the sequence of events in the past is clear.

Example: I *came* home and *took* a bath.

The past perfect uses many of the same expressions as the present perfect (*since, for, already*).

Example: I *had studied* at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia *since 2020*.

He *had been* my professor *for five years*.

I *had already studied* Chinese before I started my Cambodian course.

By the time + simple past + past perfect is often used.

Example: *By the time I left* the *party had started.*

By the time Jane arrived we *had eaten* dinner.

Uses of Like

We use *like* to talk about *personal preferences.*

Example: I *like* milk green. Thida *doesn't like jogging.*

We use *like* to talk about *a specific preference for the future*.

Example: She *would like* a window seat, please.

We use *like* to talk about *general descriptions*.

Example: What is your university *like*?

I have never been to Chiang Mai. What's it *like*?

We use *like* to talk about things *being similar to other things or acting in similar way to other things*.

Example: It smells *like* fresh milk. Jack eats *like* a horse.

We use *like* to talk about *physical appearance*.

Example: What does he *look like*?

He *looks like* his grandfather.

Note: "*Looks like*" also means "*seems like*".

Example: It *looks like* Vuthy is going to be late again!

It *looks like* I'll have to accept your invitation to spend the night

Articles

We use *"a / an"* when *the subject is mentioned for the first time*.

Example: Last night, we saw *a* dog!

They went to *a* museum yesterday.

We use *"a / an"* with *jobs*.

Example: She's *a* surgeon, and he's *an* engineer.

I am *a* teacher of English at Paññāsāstra University of Cambodia.

We use *"the"* when *the subject is already known or being talked about* (it has been mentioned previously).

      Example: What did *the* ghost look like?

We use *"the"* when *the subject is unique* (there's only one).

      Example: He's *the* president of the United States.

We use *"the"* with superlatives.

      Example: It's *the* best movie.

No article

We use *no article to make generalization with plural nouns*.

      Example: *Pants* are warmer than *skirts*.

We use *no article with uncountable nouns*.

      Example: *Progress* is impossible.

Articles in place names

We use *no article with most place names*.

      Example: Phnom Penh, Korea, Cambodia

We use *no article with names with South, East*, etc.

      Example: South America, South Africa, North Korea

We use *"the"* with countries with the word State, Kingdom, or Republic.

      Example: *the* United State, *the* United Kingdom

We use *"the"* with plural names

      Example: *the* Philippines

We use *"the"* with rivers, seas, oceans, or deserts.

      Example: *the* Seine River

We use *"the"* to describe where in a country

      Example: *the* south of France, *the* north of Vietnam