

2. **Scenario 2: An extended event that continued until another event happened in the past** - This is used to express the situation that an event happened for a longer duration in the past (expressed as *past perfect*) until *another event* (expressed as *simple past*, depicted by the *star* in the illustration below) in the past.



For example:

Peter did not qualify in the exam, because he had not studied for the entire year.

- The event of Peter *not studying* happened for a *longer duration* (*entire year* in this case) in the past (expressed as *past perfect: had not studied*) until *another event* (depicted as *star* in the above picture, and expressed as *simple past: did not qualify*) in the past.

His parents were not surprised at this success, because they had always believed in him.

- The event of his parents believing in him happened for a *longer duration* (*always* in this case) in the past (expressed as *past perfect: had always believed*) until *another event* (depicted as *star* in the above picture, and expressed as *simple past: were not surprised*) in the past.

A sentence based on official question (#37, OG-13: *Some buildings that were destroyed...*):

The "Rana Plaza" in Bangladesh that collapsed, resulting in heavy casualties, was constructed with poor building material.

Analysis: As per the sentence, two different aspects of the building "Rana Plaza" are being discussed: It collapsed resulting in heavy casualties and it was constructed with poor building material. Hence the *earlier* of these two phases (*constructed with poor building material*) should be in *past perfect* (she *had been*), and not in *simple past* (she *constructed*). So, the correct sentence is:

The "Rana Plaza" in Bangladesh that collapsed, resulting in heavy casualties, had been constructed with poor building material.

Another sentence based on GMATPrep question (*In 1981 children in the United States spent an average of ...*):

In 2007, a typical web user spent less than 4 hours a month on Facebook; by 2011, that figure went up to 8 hours.

Analysis: There are actually 3 events that this sentence talks about:

(a) The time that a typical web user spent on Facebook in 2007

(b) 4 years passing since then (between 2007 and 2011)

(c) But, *before* those 4 years passed (*within those years*, as indicated by the words *by 2011*), that figure (the *time* that a typical web user spent on Facebook) went up to 8 hours.

However, note that (c) happened *before* (b) and hence, (c) should be in *past perfect* (in this case: *had gone up*). It should also be noted that *in 2007* is a *specific time*, and so, *a typical web user spent less than 4 hours a month on Facebook* is correctly expressed in *simple past* (remember that *simple past* is

used to express the situation that an event started and finished *at a specific time* in the past); on the other hand, *by 2011* is an *unspecified time* because this could refer to *any time* in or before 2011), and so, a *perfect tense* (*past perfect* in this case) would correctly depict this situation. So, the correct sentence is:

In 2007, a typical web user spent less than 4 hours a month on Facebook; by 2011, that figure had gone up to 8 hours.