## 35. SIMPLE PAST TENSE (It caused...) vs. PAST PERFECT TENSE (It had caused...)

|                        | FUNCTION   | EXAMPLE  | FORM                  |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| THE SIMPLE PAST TENSE  | To describe an action that was completed at a particular time in the past (yesterday, last month, two days ago).                             | I <u>conducted</u> a survey last week to find out how many of my classmates spoke more than one language.  | Simple form + ed      |
| THE PAST PERFECT TENSE | PP SP now  To describe an action that was completed before another action in the past. (Both happened in the past.)                          | Fire <u>had engulfed</u> the building by the time the firefighters arrived.  (First fire engulfed the building, and then the firefighters arrived. To make this time sequence clear, use the past perfect for the first action – fire breaking out all over the building). |                       |
|                        | PP SP now  To describe a completed action that continued from one moment in the past until another moment in the past.                       | Tom <u>had worked</u> at his job for thirty years when he retired.  (Tom began working thirty years ago and went on working until he retired. The first action continued until the second. Both took place in the past.)   | had + past participle |
|                        | PP Date now  To describe an action that was completed in the past before a specific date or time (indicated by a prepositional time phrase). | By 2004, Roland <u>had appeared</u> in four movies.  (By 2004 is the prepositional time phrase. The action – Roland's making four movies – was completed before that date.)  |                       |