

P R E F A C E

Simple matters have a way of turning into complex ones, when examined closely and from more than one angle. What follows is an attempt at one such examination of a fragment of English grammar. The present study is expository in nature; it seeks to expose the complexities that go with the past perfective — commonly known as the past perfect (tense) or the pluperfect — at both theoretical and practical levels. It will be seen that these complexities may not be 'deep waters', but they are not 'elementary' either.

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