

PAST PERFECT vs, SIMPLE PAST. Read this article about talk show host and actress *Oprah Winfrey* & fill in the blanks with either the simple past or the past perfect tense.

Oprah Winfrey _____ (1. begin) speaking publicly in church at the age of two. *By the time* she _____ (2. be) twelve years old, she _____ (3. already decide) what to do for a living. She _____ (4. want) to be "paid to talk". In fact, not too long afterward, she _____ (5. get) her first radio job. Although she _____ (6. not have) any previous experience, she _____ (7. be) hired to report the news.

When Winfrey _____ (8. get) her own TV talk show in 1986, she _____ (9. already be) a TV news reporter and _____ (10. make) her acting debut in a major Hollywood movie "The Color Purple". Oprah's warm personality _____ (11. make) her TV guests comfortable. Her human-interest stories on topics such as child abuse _____ (12. touch) the hearts of her viewing audience. In fact, Oprah, herself _____ (13. be) a victim. "The Oprah Winfrey Show" quickly _____ (14. become) one to the most popular shows in the United States, and *by the late 1980's* "Oprah Winfrey" _____ (15. become) a household word. When asked about her future, Winfrey says, "...it's so bright it burns my eyes."

(Remember that expression such as *already*, *yet*, and *never* are often used with the past perfect to emphasize the event which occurred first.)