

Grammar

-> It's the first time

-> by the time

It's the first (second, third) time => followed by **present perfect**

Examples:

It's the first time something **has happened**.

It's the first time I've driven a car.

This is the second time this has happened.

That's the third time he's phoned her this evening.

I.

When the main clause expresses **present or future perfect timing**, a **present tense verb form** is used in the **by-the-time phrase**.

Examples:

By the time we get there, the bank **will be closed**.

By the time we get to the cinema, the film **will already have started**.

II.

A **past verb form** is used in the **by-the-time phrase** when the main clause expresses **past perfect timing**.

Examples:

By the time we got to the cinema, the film **had already started**.

By the time she arrived, most of the other guests **had left**.