

Past perfect

Ex: He **had gone**.

The past perfect simple is **had**+past participle

The past perfect tense is used to show that something happened before another action in the past:

When we arrived, the film **had started**.

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul had already gone home.



More examples

Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because **she'd** already **seen** the movie.

At first I thought I'd done the right thing, but I soon realized that **I'd made** a big mistake.

past perfect → simple past

Present perfect and past perfect

Present perfect

- An action that started in the past and **continues to the present**.
I have lived in this city for six months.
- An action that happened **before now** (unspecified time)
I have been to Japan twice.

Past perfect

- An action that happened **before a time in the past**.
When I arrived at the office this morning, I discovered that I **had left** my computer on the night before.

Compare

The house is dirty. They haven't cleaned it for weeks.

The house was dirty. They hadn't cleaned it for weeks.

Past simple and past perfect

We use Simple Past if we give past events in the order in which they occurred. However, the past perfect tense is used to show that something happened before another action in the past:

Kate wasn't at home when I phoned. She was at her mother's house. (she was at her mother's house then I phoned)

Kate had just got home when I phoned. She had been at her mother's house. (she had arrived before my call)