

Past Perfect simple

We form the past perfect simple with HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE.

We use it when we need to make clear that one past action happened before another action.

For the action that happened **first**, we use the **PAST PERFECT**.

For the action that happened **second**, we use the **PAST SIMPLE**.

When they **got** to the station, the train **had left**.

Past Perfect (2)

When we're telling a story, we sometimes also use the past perfect simple to describe events that happened before the start of the story.

- ❖ I visited Africa last year. I'd always wanted to go there.

We also use a past perfect (and not a simple past) to say how long something continued up to a past moment.

- ❖ She told me that her father had been ill since Christmas.
- ❖ When they got married, they had known each other for 15 years.

Past Perfect (3)

We ONLY use the past perfect simple when we need to make it clear which action happened first. We don't need to use it when:

- ❖ **The order of the events is the as same as the order of the verbs in the sentence.**

He looked down and saw a coin on the ground, so he picked it up.

- ❖ **The order of events is clear**

They went out on the boat after the storm passed.