

Pluperfect Tense

The Italian pluperfect tense, also known as trapassato prossimo, is formed by combining the imperfect tense of the auxiliary verbs *avere* (to have) or *essere* (to be) with the past participle of the main verb. The choice between *avere* and *essere* follows the same rules as the *passato prossimo*.

Here's the general format:

- **Subject + imperfect form of *avere* or *essere* + past participle of the main verb**

Example using *avere*:

- **Avevo mangiato:** (I had eaten)
- **Avevi dormito:** (You had slept)
- **Aveva studiato:** (He/She had studied)

Example using *essere*:

- **Ero andato/a:** (I had gone)
- **Eri partito/a:** (You had left)
- **Era arrivato/a:** (He/She had arrived)

Key points:

- The past participle agrees in gender and number with the subject when using *essere*.
- The pluperfect tense is used to express an action that was completed before another past action.
- For verbs conjugated with *essere*, the past participle must agree in gender and number with the subject.