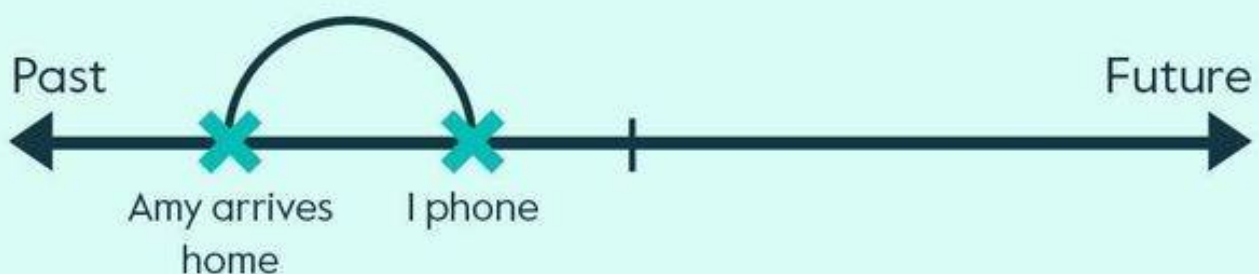


Past perfect

to talk about something that happened
before a time in the past

- Amy **had** just **got** home when I phoned.
- The house was dirty because they **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.
- We weren't hungry because **we'd** just **had** lunch.

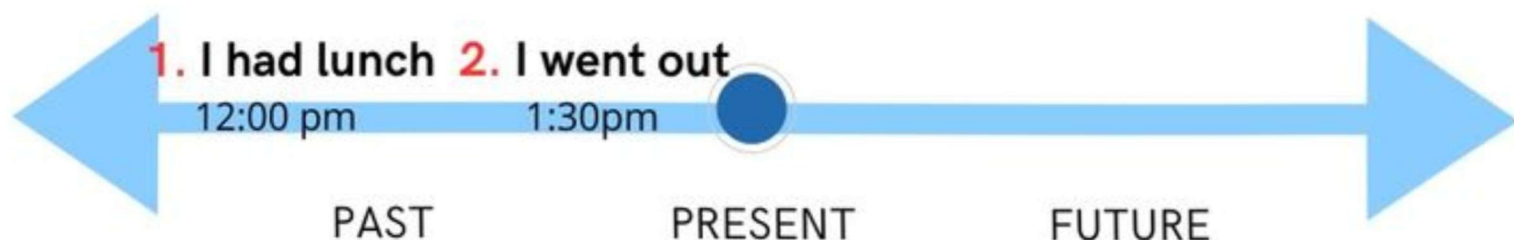


Past Perfect



Past Simple

“I had eaten lunch before I went out.”



If there were two activities in the past, and one of them occurred before the second one, we use past perfect for the oldest; first activity, and past simple for the most recent; second activity.

past perfect

5 easy steps



I **had made** a reservation before we **went** to the restaurant.



ARNEL'S EVERYDAY
ENGLISH



I **made** a reservation before we **went** to the restaurant.



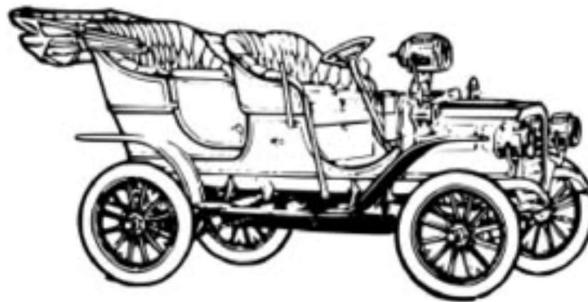
ARNEL'S EVERYDAY
ENGLISH

STEP 4: The past perfect is optional if the sequence is already clear.

Past Perfect Story 4

By Really Learn English

[Visit the Past Perfect Section for More Resources](#)



Who had owned it? What had they done?

The Smith family had never owned a car until they bought their first automobile in 1906. Before they bought it, they had only used horses and a buggy for transportation. They had never owned anything so expensive before they bought the car.

The Smith family was very excited about their automobile. The children had never ridden in an automobile before their parents purchased the car. They had only seen a few automobiles when they went to town for supplies. But nobody they knew had ever owned an automobile before that day. They felt very lucky.

Past Perfect Story 2

By **Really Learn English**

[Visit the Past Perfect Section for More Resources](#)



**Where were they? What did they do?
What had they done?**

Last weekend, Mark and Trisha went on a date. Mark took Trisha to the golf course. Mark loved to golf. He had learned to golf as a child. He had even played on a team in high school.

Before that day, Trisha had never golfed. She did not know how to hold the golf club. She did not know the rules.

Mark taught Trisha how to play. After Trisha had learned the basics, she hit the ball. It was a good hit! Mark had taught Trisha well.

NARRATIVE TENSES

EXAMPLE

test-english.com



Last night, I **was walking**¹ home when I **saw** a car running very fast towards a red light. I **looked** at the driver and I could see that he **was talking**² on his phone. He **didn't stop** at the traffic light, and another car **crashed** into him. When the police **arrived**, they **asked** me what **had happened** and I **told** them that the driver **hadn't seen** the traffic light because he **was using**² his phone.

NARRATIVE TENSES

Use **PAST SIMPLE** to describe the main events of a story in chronological order.

Use **PAST CONTINUOUS** to ¹set the scene and to ²describe actions or situations that were in progress (not finished) at a certain point in the story.

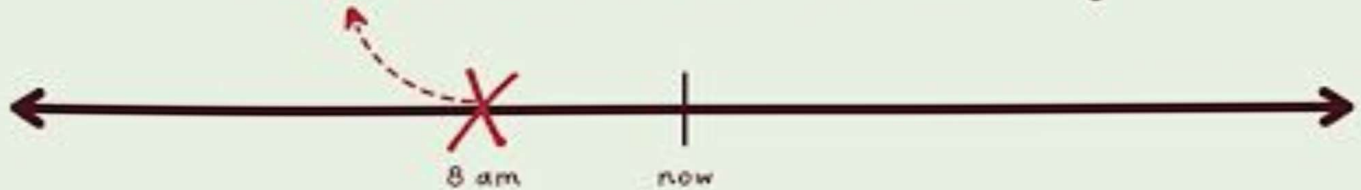
Use **PAST PERFECT** to describe events that happened earlier in the past.

Narrative Tenses



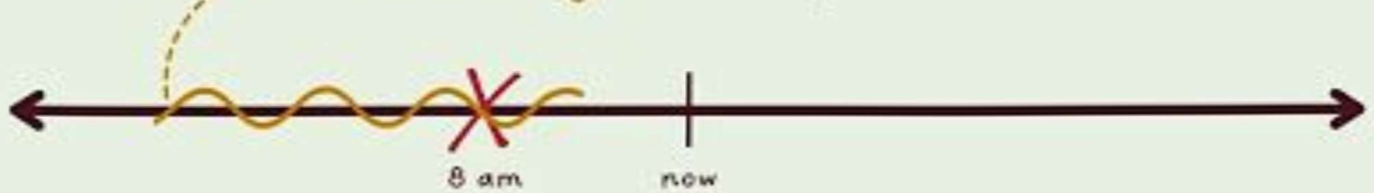
Past Simple

I **left** the house at 8 am this morning.



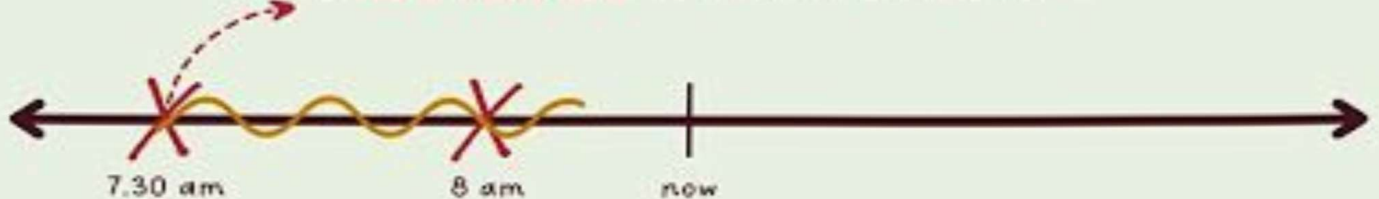
Past Continuous

It **was raining** when I left the house.



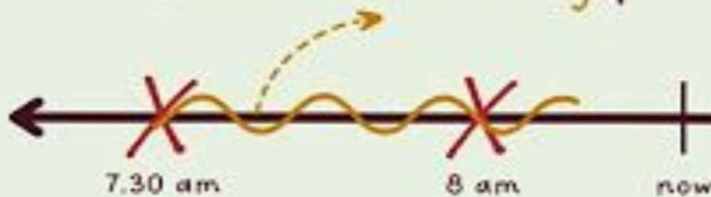
Past Perfect Simple

It **had started** to rain at 7.30 am.



Past Perfect Continuous

It **had been raining** for 30 minutes when I left.





Narrative Tenses

We use narrative tenses to tell a story about what happened in the past.

Past simple for actions that happened at a specific time in the past. **He won the lottery.** **Past continuous** for action in progress. **I was working.**



Past perfect simple which expresses past actions, already finished when another past action happened. **Peter had gone out when his wife arrived.**

And **past perfect continuous** which started in the past and continued to happen after another action in the past. **She had been working all night when she had the accident.**



PAST PERFECT & PAST SIMPLE

I. Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Simple.

After John and Ted _____ (finish) their breakfast, they _____ (take) their bags and _____ (go) to the river to fish. By 4 o'clock they _____ (not/get) any fish, so they decided to go home. Boys _____ (not/like) fishing at all but they _____ (promise) their mother to bring fish for dinner, so Ted _____ (look) for a shop where they could buy some but the shops _____ (already/close) by that time. When they _____ (arrive) home, they _____ (tell) their mother that they _____ (catch) the biggest fish they _____ (ever/see) but it _____ (escape).

II. Rewrite the following sentences using Past Perfect.

eg.: *The students left the classroom. The bell rung.* (After)

After the bell had rung, the students left the classroom.

1. Jane finished studying. She went out with some friends. (After)

2. Sue washed her hands. She ate her lunch. (After)

3. We rode our bikes. We saw our granny. (Before)

4. His mother watched a film. We went to our beds. (After)

NAME:

NARRATIVE TENSES

1. CHOOSE THE RIGHT ANSWER.

- 1 She ____ the gold medal at the last Olympic Games.
a won **b was winning** **c had won**
- 2 I ____ breakfast when I heard the news.
a had **b was having** **c had had**
- 3 I wanted to go for a swim, but I ____ a towel.
a didn't bring **b wasn't bringing** **c hadn't brought**
- 4 Our guests arrived while we ____ the basketball on TV.
a watched **b were watching** **c had watched**
- 5 We ____ any goals in our last match.
a didn't score **b weren't scoring** **c hadn't scored**
- 6 As soon as the film started, I realized that I ____ it before.
a saw **b was seeing** **c had seen**
- 7 I ____ hockey and netball when I was at school.
a played **b was playing** **c had played**
- 8 It was late and people ____ to get home before it got dark.
a hurried **b were hurrying** **c had hurried**
- 9 We were exhausted when we eventually got home – we ____ a very busy day.
a had **b were having** **c had had**
- 10 Sorry. I ____ when you called, so I couldn't answer.
a drove **b was driving** **c had driven**