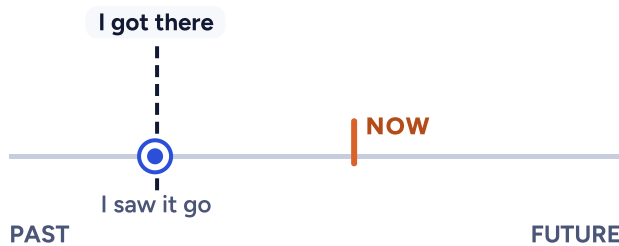


Past Perfect vs Past Simple

Use the **Past Simple** for past events in the order they happened: *I arrived and she left.* Use the **Past Perfect** to go back to an earlier past: *When I arrived, she had left.* (She left first.)

PAST SIMPLE · THE MAIN STORY

When I got to the platform, the train **left**.



PAST PERFECT · THE EARLIER PAST

When I got to the platform, the train **had left**.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- When we got to the cinema, the film _____. We missed the start.
a) started b) had started
- Yesterday I _____ to the dentist.
a) went b) had gone
- By the time the police came, the thieves _____
a) escaped b) had escaped
- First I made coffee, then I _____ my emails.
a) checked b) had checked
- She was nervous because she _____ before.
a) had never flown b) has never flown

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. When I arrived, she already left.

2. I had visited my grandparents last weekend.

3. By the time we got there, the shop closed.

3. Your turn

Write two sentences about your own life: one with **Past Simple** and one with **Past Perfect**. Then explain the difference to a partner.

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/compare/past-perfect-vs-past-simple

Past Perfect vs Past Simple

1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) had started** It started before you got there: you missed the start.
2. **a) went** One past event at a finished time takes the Past Simple.
3. **b) had escaped** By the time shows the escape came first.
4. **a) checked** Events told in order take the Past Simple.
5. **a) had never flown** Before that past moment (being nervous), so the earlier past takes had + participle.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **When I arrived, she had already left.** She left before you arrived, so the earlier action takes the Past Perfect.
2. **I visited my grandparents last weekend.** Only one past event at a finished time: no Past Perfect needed.
3. **By the time we got there, the shop had closed.** By the time shows the closing happened earlier.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.