

Past Perfect Tense

The past perfect tense

Look at this sentence .

I had eaten my breakfast
before I went to school.

*How is the past perfect
formed?*

had + V₃

Tom had played football before
he went back home.

Use

We use *Past Perfect Tense* to describe

ONE PAST ACTION

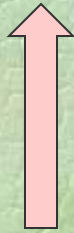
happening *before*

ANOTHER PAST ACTION

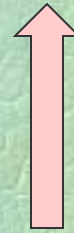
Use

Example 1:

*The train **had gone** when I **arrived** at the station.*



Action 1



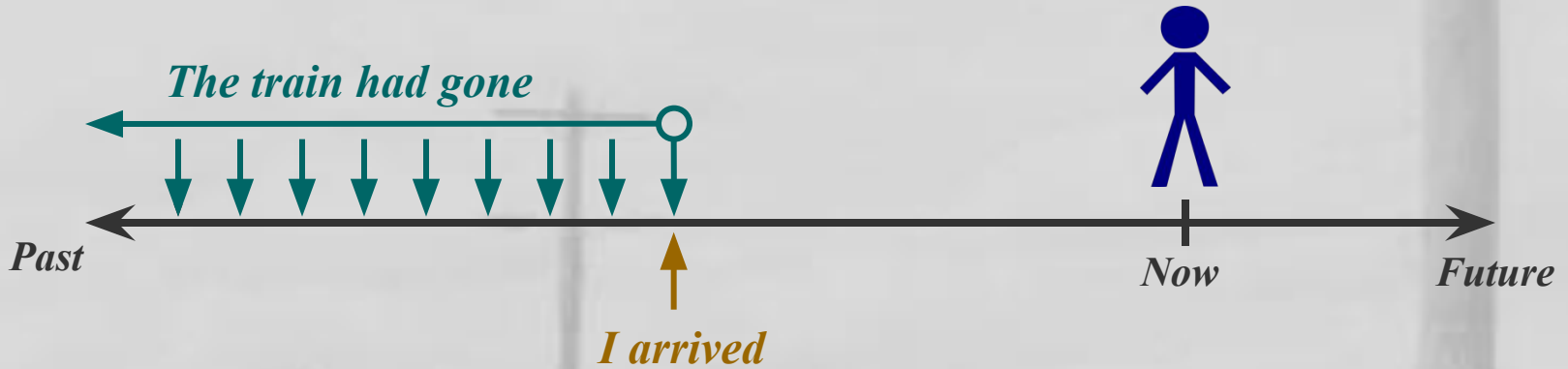
Action 2

- a. Both **Action 1** and **Action 2** are past actions.
- b. **Action 1** happened before **Action 2** .

Use

Time diagram of Example 1:

The train *had gone* when *I arrived* at the station.



We don't know when exactly *the train went* (Action 1) but it went at any point of time before the moment *I arrived* (Action 2).

Look at this example.

**After he had taken
his music lesson,**

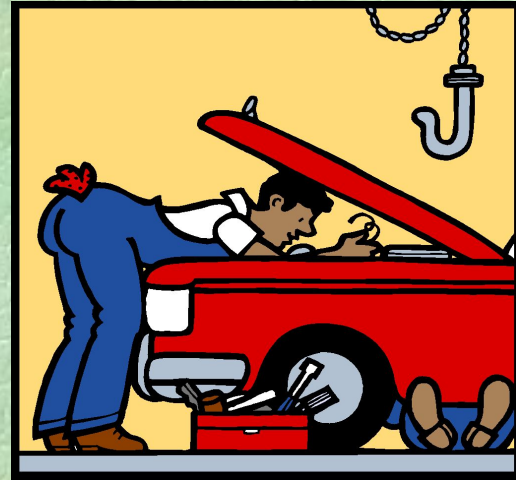


*he made a telephone
call.*



*What had Tom
done before he went fishing?*

**Tom had repaired
his car,
before he went
fishing.**



*The key words of
this tense are:*

after

as soon as {had+V₃} *Past simple*

The key words of this tense are:

before

{past simple}+ Had+PP

By the time

*The use of the past
perfect tense.*

**We use the past perfect to
talk about an action which
happened before another
action in the **past****

Make similar sentences using after and before.

Finish work-watch TV

**After I had finished
work ,I watched TV**

**Before I watched TV ,I
had finished my work.**

Make similar sentences using *by the time* and *as soon as*

Eat breakfast-go to school

By the time I went to school, I had eaten my breakfast.

As soon as I had eaten my breakfast, I went to school

Make similar sentences using *by the time* and *as soon as*

Police arrive-thief escape

By the time the police arrived, the thief had escaped.

As soon as the thief had escaped, the police arrived.

So it is correct to say:

After he had finished the meeting ,he made a telephone call.



OR

Before he made a telephone call ,he had finished the meeting.

