

# 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 + V<sub>3</sub>**

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**



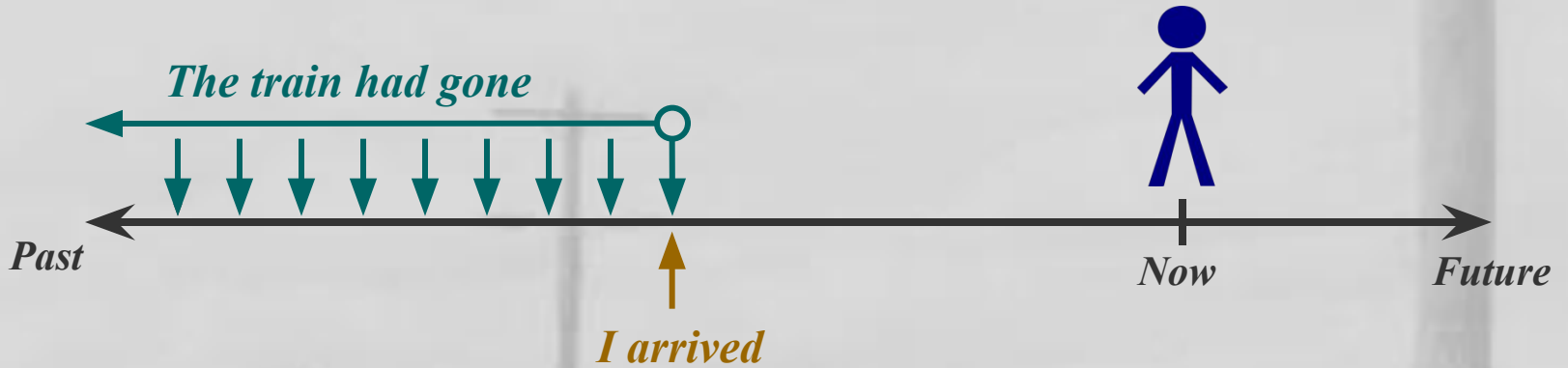
**Action 2**

- 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,**

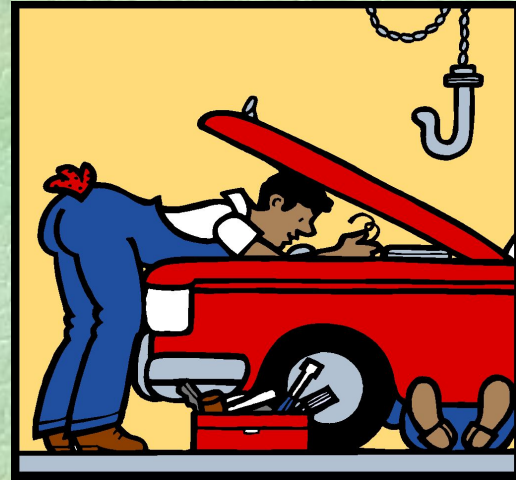


*he made a telephone  
call.*



*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+V<sub>3</sub>} *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.**

