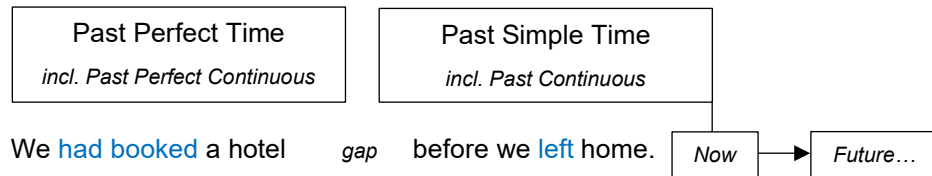


6 Reasons to Use Past Perfect in English

had ('d) + past participle (3rd form)

positive: I **had ('d) eaten** dinner before going to the cinema.
negative: I **had not (hadn't) eaten** dinner before going to the cinema.
question: **Had you eaten** dinner before going to the cinema? / Yes, I **had ('d)**. / No, I **had not (hadn't)**.

1. To talk about **finished** actions in a **distinct** time period before Past Simple Time ('two times in the past'):



If we use Past Simple instead of Past Perfect, the two actions appear **consecutive**, rather than at different times:

We **booked** a hotel before we **left** home. = 'booking' seems near in time to 'leaving'

We often use Past Perfect to **set the scene** and give **background information** while telling a story in Past Simple:

I went to Bristol at the weekend. I'd last been there in 2005.	last
He'd taught maths for ten years , and didn't expect to be fired.	for + number
I saw Jenny in town yesterday. I hadn't seen her since last April .	since + time
Meg had withdrawn twenty pounds so she could pay the builder.	so / to / in order to
When he had finished the ironing, he popped to the gym.	when / once / as soon as
He had lived in Oslo for most of his life, but had to get away.	for most of / all
I got to work late because I'd forgotten to set my alarm.	because / as / since
We packed the dishwasher after the party had finished .	after
Jay was shocked, because Tim had completed the exam first .	first

2. To talk about **finished** actions in the past that happened before another time:

I had finished work by two o'clock .	by + time / before / prior to
Jeff had cleaned the bath by the time his mother returned.	by the time
We'd switched off the heating before going / we went to bed.	before + gerund or verb phrase
We had built the garage extension earlier .	earlier / beforehand / previously / later
I had long spent my summers on the Isle of Man.	long (past up to Past Simple Time)

3. To show **changed plans / habits**

I had planned to stay for two nights, but I went home early.	planned / hoped / expected / wanted / intended
I had always bought brown bread, but yesterday I didn't.	always / usually / normally / ordinarily

4. With **adverbs**:

I'd already made breakfast before the kids came downstairs.	already
Joe asked for the report, but I hadn't done it yet .	yet / until then / until that day
Had he ever visited Fiji? / No, he had never visited Fiji.	ever / never
They still hadn't replied to my email, so I called them.	still (in negative sentences)
We had just started working when her mother arrived.	just (close in time to the Past Simple action)

5. To make **Third Conditional** and **Mixed Conditional** sentences:

<i>Third Conditional:</i>	If I had worked harder, I would / could / might have got better marks.
<i>Mixed Conditional (past > present):</i>	If I had bought rice, I would make a curry. (<i>now</i>)
<i>Mixed Conditional (past > future):</i>	If I hadn't upset Graham, we could go out for lunch tomorrow.

6. In **Reported Speech**, e.g. after **say, tell, ask**, etc. Past Simple and Past Perfect both transform to Past Perfect:

<i>Past Simple > Past Perfect:</i>	'I played golf yesterday.'	>	He said he had played golf yesterday.
<i>Past Perfect > Past Perfect:</i>	' Had you lived in Peru before?'	>	She asked whether I'd lived in Peru before.