Past perfect (**I had done**)

A

Study this example situation:

at 10.30   *at 11.00*

Bye!   Hi!

PAUL   SARAH
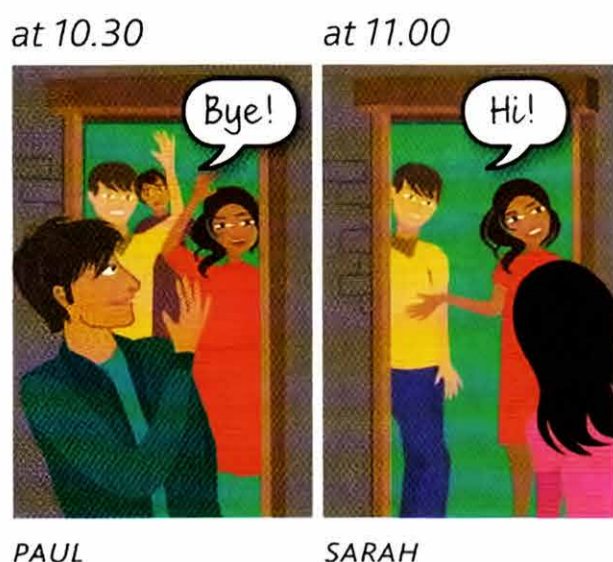
Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'**d** etc.) (= he'**d** etc.)	**gone** **seen** **finished** etc.

The past perfect simple is **had** + *past participle* (**gone/seen/finished** etc).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:
- ○ Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** …):
- ○ When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

Some more examples:
- ○ When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- ○ Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'**d** already **seen** the movie.
- ○ At first I thought I'**d done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'**d made** a big mistake.
- ○ The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
- *or* … He **had** never **flown** before.

B

Compare the *present perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

Present perfect

have seen →

past   now
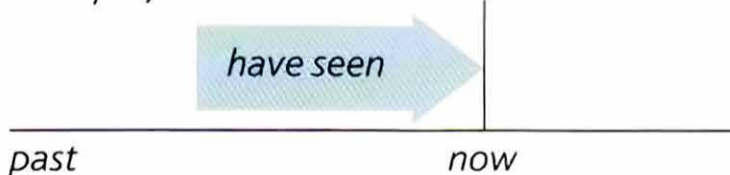
- ○ Who is that woman? I'**ve seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- ○ We aren't hungry. We'**ve** just **had** lunch.
- ○ The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect

had seen →

past   now

- ○ I wasn't sure who she was. I'**d seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- ○ We weren't hungry. We'**d** just **had** lunch.
- ○ The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple* (**left, was** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had left, had been** etc.):

- ○ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
  B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.

- ○ Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned. She **was** at her mother's house.

- ○ A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
  B: No, he **had** already **left**.

- ○ Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned. She **had been** at her mother's house.

Past perfect continuous ➜ Unit 16   Irregular verbs (**gone/seen** etc.) ➜ Appendix 1