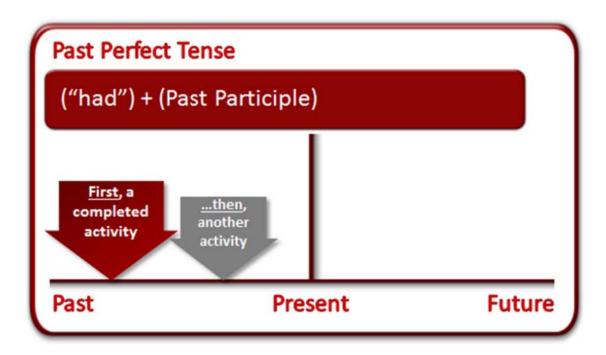# Recap of the Past Perfect

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be recapping the past perfect and expanding our knowledge of this tense.

What is the past perfect tense used for?

The past perfect refers to a time **earlier than before now**. It is used to make it clear that **one event happened before another** in the past. It does not matter which event is mentioned first - the tense makes it clear which one happened first.

John had gone out, when
I arrived in the office.

He was very tired, because he
hadn't slept well.

How to form the past perfect

The Past Perfect tense in English is composed of two parts:

The past tense of the verb *to have (had)* + the past participle of the main verb.

I had saved my document, before the computer crashed.

When they arrived, we had already started cooking.

In use

Let's take a look at the verb 'to decide' and all its past perfect forms.

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I had decided	I hadn't decided	Had I decided?
You had decided	You hadn't decided	Had you decided?
She had decided	She hadn't decided	Had she decided?
We had decided	We hadn't decided	Had we decided?
They had decided	They hadn't decided	Had they decided?

Just

'Just' is used with the past perfect to refer to an event that was only a short time earlier than before now.

The train had just left when I arrived at the station.

She had just left the room when the police arrived.

I had just put the washing out when it started to rain.

Compare to present perfect

We use **"just"** with the present perfect to express that an action was completed in the very recent past.

Subject + auxiliary verb (present tense of "to have") + past participle

I have just finished my homework

He has just arrived

They have just eaten their dinner

Just – to show a recently finished action