Past Perfect

We frequently use **Past Perfect** to express that one event in the past occurred preceding another event; for example, when we explain sequencing activities.

Martha's house was recently robbed.

Read Martha's narration of facts.

"It happened on Monday. I **left** home at 6:00pm as I usually do. My neighbors say they **heard** some noises coming from my house at around 7:00, but they didn't imagine the thieves had entered the house. When I **arrived** home at 10:00pm, they had run away. They **took** a bracelet and some money I had left on the table that day. Of course, I immediately **called** the police but they **arrived** until 1:00am! By the time they **arrived** I had already fallen asleep…"

Notice all of the verbs in the text express past time actions; nevertheless, they ocurred in different moments of the past.

Some appear in **Simple Past** and other in Past Perfect tense (*had/n't* + a verb in past participle), which implies that one occurred before another one.

In the following examples, the ideas in red express more "antiquity" according to **the ideas in bold**, independently of the order they present.

Past Perfect

Note: remember that Past perfect ideas require the verb in *past participle.*

When I **arrived** home, they *had run* away.

They *had run* away when I **arrived**.

By the time they **arrived** I *had already fallen* asleep.

I *had already fallen* asleep by the time they **arrived**.