PAST PERFECT SIMPLE
VERSUS
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

PAST PERFECT

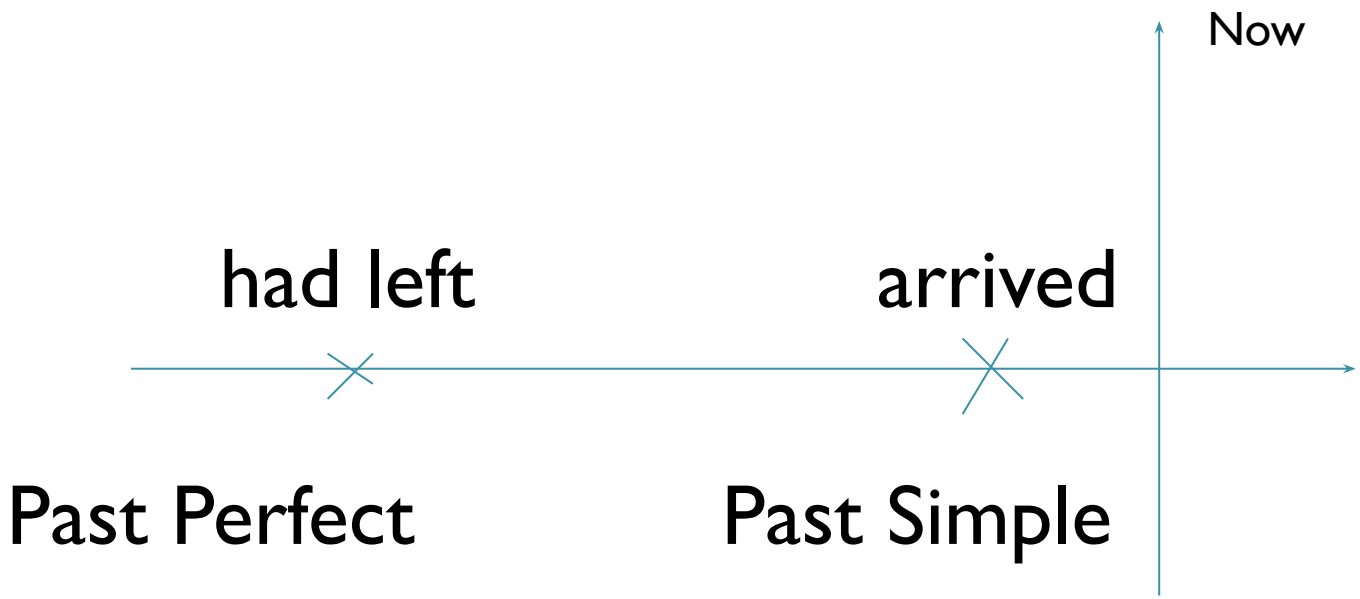
FORM: had+Ved/V3

USE: one action happened before the other

TIME EXPRESSIONS:

- Yesterday by ____ o'clock
- Before some time in the past

She had left when he arrived.



Concept questions

1. Are we talking about the past?
2. How many actions are there in the past?
3. Did both actions happen at the same time?
4. Did one action happen before the other?
5. Which action happened first?

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: had+been+Ving

USE: 1) duration of an activity up to a past point in time

2) result of an activity at a past point in time

TIME EXPRESSIONS:

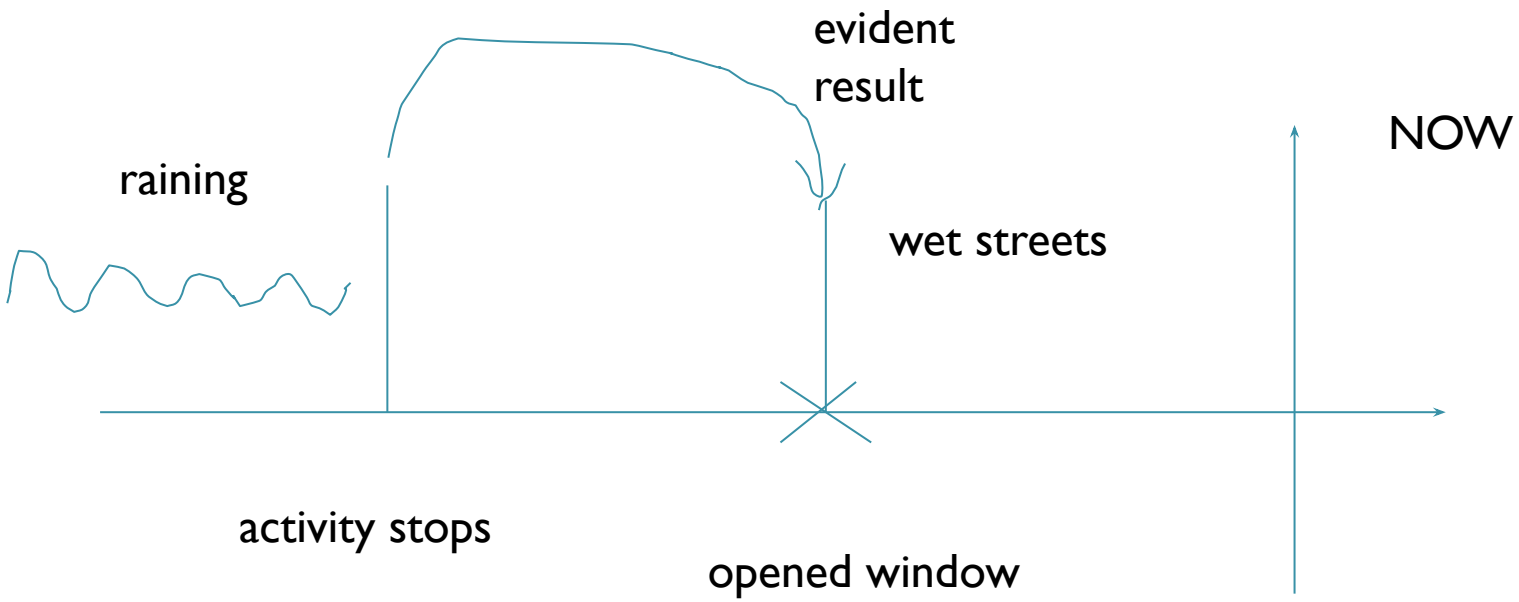
- Yesterday since _____
- For some time in the past

They had been swimming in the water for two hours when they were rescued

Concept questions

1. How long were they swimming in the water?
2. Did they stop swimming when they were rescued?

I opened the window and saw the streets were wet. It had been raining.



Concept questions

1. Was it raining when I opened the door?
2. Did it stop raining a short time before this?
3. How did I know?