

**What tenses do you know?**

Past tense

Barack Obama **was** the 44<sup>th</sup> president of the United States.

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*Englisch am Abend C1-2*  
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**What tenses do you know?**

Past tense

a) is used to describe actions or states that happened and were finished in the past:

*We had a barbecue yesterday. (The barbecue is over.)*

*They went to the beach last week. (They are no longer at the beach.)*

b) is used to describe past habits, repeated actions or states or conditions that existed in the past:

*When we were in Italy, we always had tea for breakfast.*

*He used to play the piano every day after school.*

*Our first car was a VW.*

c) is used in reported speech:

*She said: "I like icecream".*

*She said that she **liked** icecream.*

*He said: "I am watching the football match".*

*He said that he **was watching** the football match.*

**Note:** to describe something that happened during an ongoing process in the past, the **action that started first** is presented in the progressive form, the **later action** uses the **simple form**:

*While we **were having** dinner, it **started** to rain.*

*The phone **rang** when he **was having** a shower.*

## Tenses

Past perfect

I **had watched** the news before I went to bed.

## Tenses

### Past perfect

### to have - **had** - had

The past perfect is used to describe an action or event that happened before another action or event in the past. It is formed by using the auxiliary verb **had** followed by the **past participle** of the main verb.

a) is used to describe a sequence of events in the past:

*By the time I arrived at the party (2), they **had** already **left** (1).*

b) is used to express a past condition that is no longer true:

*She **had lost** her job as a waitress before she found a new one as a flight attendant.*

c) is used to narrate stories or past events:

*John **had** always **dreamed** of becoming an astronaut. He studied engineering and physics in college.*

d) is used after "wish" and "if only" to express regrets:

*I wish/if only I **had studied** harder for the exam.*

e) is used in reported speech to report someone's words in the past:

Direct speech: He said, "*I have finished the report.*"

Reported speech: He said that he **had finished** the report.

Direct: He said, "*I finished the report yesterday.*"

Reported: He said that he **had finished** the report the day before.