

عنوان المحاضرة: Past Perfect

المادة الدراسية: Grammar

المرحلة الدراسية: First level

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جامعة الموصل

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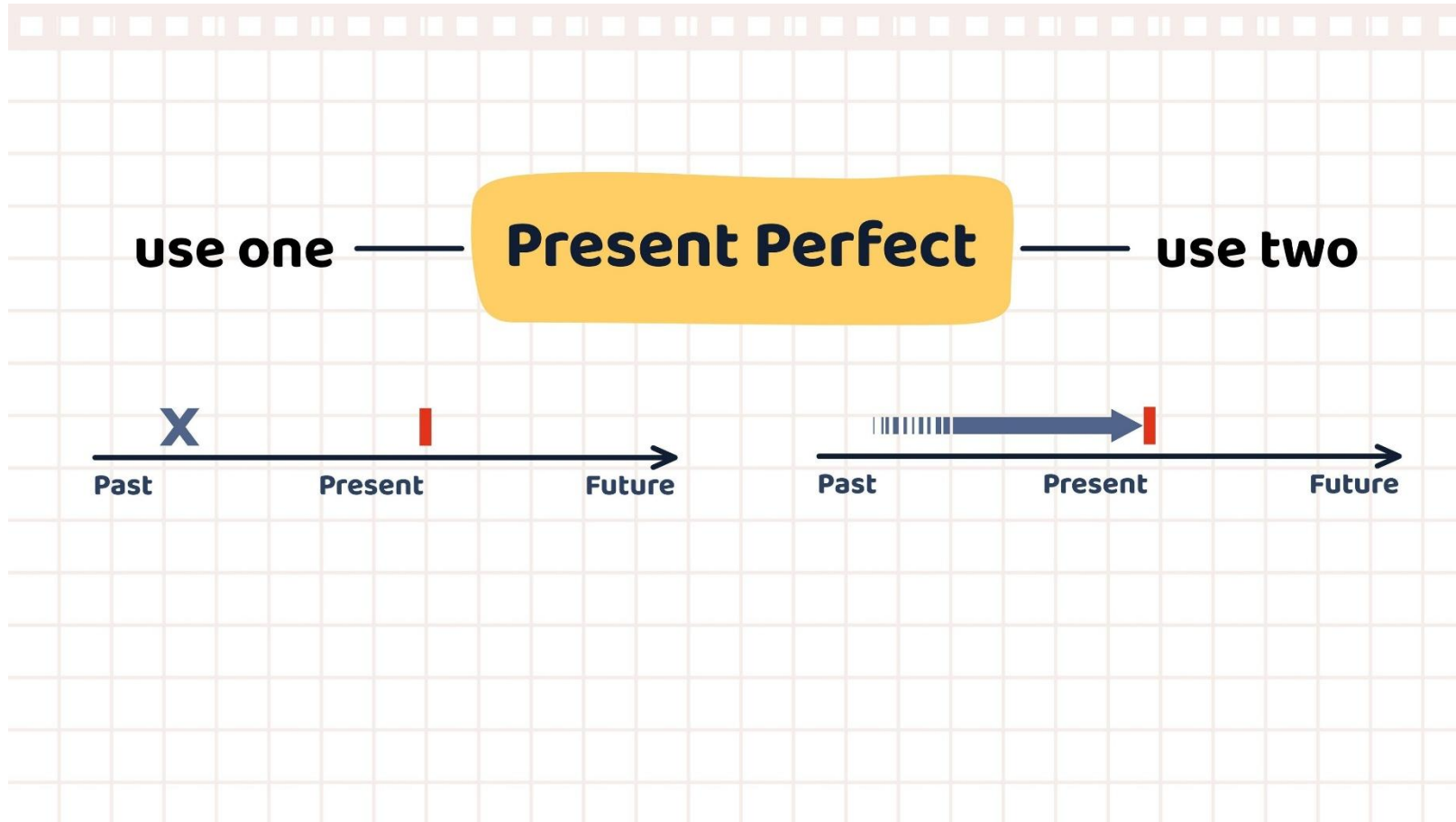
Past Perfect Simple

The "Past in the Past"

- **What is it?** A tense used to talk about time *before* another point in the past.
- **How do we form it?** * **Subject + had + past participle (verb-3)**
- **Example:** I had eaten / She had gone / They had finished.
- **Why use it?** To make the sequence of past events crystal clear.

The "First" Past Action

A finished action before a second point in the past.



- When we are talking about the past and want to mention something that happened *even further back*, we use the Past Perfect.
- It often explains or gives a reason for a past situation.
- **Examples:**
 - When we arrived, the film **had started**. (*First the film started, then we arrived*).
 - I'd **eaten** dinner so I wasn't hungry.
 - By the time the police arrived, the thief **had escaped**.
 - She couldn't pay for her coffee because she **had left** her wallet at home.
 - I didn't recognize my hometown; they **had built** so many new buildings.

- **Use 1 – The 'Before/After' Exception**
- **When the sequence is already obvious.**
- If we use time words like **before** or **after**, the order of events is already clear.
- In these cases, using the Past Perfect is *optional*. You can just use the Past Simple.
- **Examples:**
 - The film started **before** we arrived. (*Past Simple*)
 - The film **had started before** we arrived. (*Past Perfect*)
 - She cleaned the house **after** the guests left. (*Past Simple*)
 - She cleaned the house **after** the guests **had left**. (*Past Perfect*)

- **Use 2 – Duration Up to a Past Point**
- **Something that started in the past and continued up to another past action.**
- Similar to the Present Perfect telling us "how long" up to *now*, the Past Perfect tells us "how long" up to *then*.
- We usually use '**for + time**'.
- This is mostly used with **stative verbs** (like *be, know, own, like*), because we use the Past Perfect Continuous for active verbs.

- **Examples:**

- When he graduated, he **had been** in London for six years.
- On the 20th of July, I'd **worked** here for three months.
- By the time they got married, they **had known** each other for a decade.
- When the car finally broke down, we **had owned** it for twelve years.
- She felt lonely because she **had been** without her friends for weeks.

- **Use 3 – The Unreal Past**
- **Talking about imaginary or unreal things in the past.**
- We take one step back in time to talk about things that *didn't* happen, but we are imagining if they did.
- This is standard in the **Third Conditional** and after the word '**wish**'.

- **Examples (Third Conditional):**

- If I **had known** you were ill, I would have visited you. (*Reality: I didn't know*).
- She would have passed the exam if she **had studied** harder.
- If we **had left** the house earlier, we wouldn't have missed our flight.

- **Examples (Wish):**

- I wish I **hadn't gone** to bed so late. (*Reality: I went to bed late*).
- I wish I **had saved** more money when I was younger.
- He wishes he **had accepted** that job offer in Paris.

Quick Summary Review

When to use 'Had + Past Participle'

- **Sequence:** To show which past action happened *first* (The "past in the past").
- **Duration:** To show how long something lasted up to a point in the past (With stative verbs).
- **Imagination:** To talk about regrets or unreal past situations (Third Conditional & Wishes).