

**THE PLUPERFECT TENSE****LE PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT****FORM**

This tense is formed in the same way as the perfect tense (*le passé composé*) except that the auxiliary verbs *avoir* or *être* are in the imperfect tense (*l'imparfait*) and **not** the present tense (*le présent*).

Use the imperfect of *avoir* or *être* + the past participle of the verb. Remember the verbs which take *avoir* and those which take *être*, remembering agreement with the subject!

**Verbs taking 'avoir' (the past participle may have to agree with the direct object!)**

**Example:** verb *regarder* = to watch

**Example:** verb *faire* = to make/do

J'**avais** regardé = I **had** watched

J'**avais** fait = I **had** made/done

Tu **avais** regardé = You **had** watched

Tu **avais** fait = You **had** made/done

Il/Elle **avait** regardé = He/She **had** watched

Il/Elle **avait** fait = He/She **had** made/done

Nous **avions** regardé = We **had** watched

Nous **avions** fait = We **had** made/done

Vous **aviez** regardé = You **had** watched

Vous **aviez** fait = You **had** made/done

Ils/Elles **avaient** regardé = They **had** watched

Ils/Elles **avaient** fait = They **had** made/done

**Verbs taking 'être'**

**Example:** verb *aller* = to go

**Example:** verb *monter* = to go up

J'**étais** allé(e) = I **had** gone

J'**étais** monté(e) = I **had** gone up

Tu **étais** allé(e) = You **had** gone

Tu **étais** monté(e) = You **had** gone up

Il **était** allé = He **had** gone

Il **était** monté = He **had** gone up

Elle **était** allée = She **had** gone

Elle **était** montée = She **had** gone up

Nous **étions** allé(e)s = We **had** gone

Nous **étions** monté(e)s = We **had** gone up

Vous **étiez** allé(e)(s) = You **had** gone

Vous **étiez** monté(e)(s) = You **had** gone up

Ils/Elles **étaient** allés/allées = They **had** gone

Ils/Elles **étaient** montés/montées = ...

**Reflexive Verbs Verbes Pronominaux**

**Example:** verb *se laver* = to wash oneself

Je **m'étais** lavé(e) = I **had** washed myself

Tu **t'étais** lavé(e) = You **had** washed yourself

Il **s'était** lavé = He **had** washed himself

Elle **s'était** lavée = She **had** washed herself

Nous **nous étions** lavé(e)s = We **had** washed ourselves

Vous **vous étiez** lavé(e)(s) = You **had** washed yourself(ves)

Ils **s'étaient** lavés = They **had** washed themselves

Elles **s'étaient** lavées = They **had** washed themselves

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**Example:** verb *se coucher* = *to go to bed*  
Je **m'étais** couché(e) = *I had gone to bed*  
Tu **t'étais** couché(e) = *You had gone to bed*  
Il **s'était** couché = *He had gone to bed*  
Elle **s'était** couchée = *She had gone to bed*  
Nous **nous étions** couché(e)s = *We had gone to bed*  
Vous **vous étiez** couché(e)(s) = *You had gone to bed*  
Ils **s'étaient** couchés = *They had gone to bed*  
Elles **s'étaient** couchées = *They had gone to bed*

## USES

1) *To talk about an event in the past that happened before another event occurred:*

**Examples:**

**J'avais déjà fait la lessive quand il est arrivé.**

I had already done the washing when he arrived.

**Il était déjà parti avant l'arrivée des touristes.**

He had already left before the tourists arrived.

**Estelle n'avait pas mangé avant l'entretien.**

Estelle hadn't eaten before the interview.

**Il ne l'avait pas vu depuis son séjour en France.**

He hadn't seen him since his stay in France.

2) In 'if' (si) clauses to express hypothetical situations:

**Examples:**

**Si j'avais su, je te l'aurais dit.**

If I had known, I would have told you.

**Si elle avait vu la peinture, elle l'aurait achetée.**

If she had seen the painting, she would have bought it.

**Il aurait joué de la flute, s'il avait eu le temps.**

He would have played the flute if he had had the time.

**Si tu avais demandé à tes parents, ils t'auraient donné de l'argent.**

If you had asked your parents, they would have given you some money

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