

EXPRESS CHECK

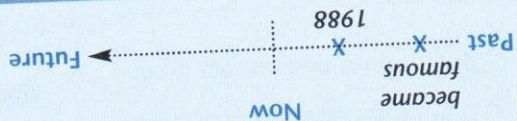
Complete this conversation with the verb *arrive*.

A: Had she _____ by 9:00?

B: No, she _____.

Grammar Explanations

1. Use the **past perfect** to show that something happened before a specific time in the past.



- By 1988 Oprah Winfrey **had become** famous.
- It was 1985. She **had** already **been** in a Hollywood film.

2. The **past perfect** always shows a relationship with another past event.

Use the past perfect for the earlier event. Use the simple past tense for the later event. **BE CAREFUL!** In these sentences with **when**, notice the difference in meaning between the simple past tense and the past perfect.

- In 1990 Oprah **invited** Matt on the show. He **had been** an author for two years. (He was an author before 1990.)
- By the time Jill **got** home, "The Oprah Winfrey Show" **had finished**.
- **When** the show ended, she **left**. (First the show ended. Then she left.)
- **When** the show ended, she **had left**. (First she left. Then the show ended.)

3. **Already, yet, ever, and never** are often used with the past perfect to emphasize the event which occurred first.

- I saw *The Color Purple* last night. I **had never seen** it before.
- Jason **had already seen** it.

4. When the time relationship between two past events is clear, you can use the **simple past tense for both events**. The meaning is usually clear when you use **after, before, or as soon as** to connect the events.

- **After** Oprah **had appeared** in *The Color Purple*, she **got** a part in another movie.
- OR
- **After** Oprah **appeared** in *The Color Purple*, she **got** a part in another movie.

5. We often use the **past perfect** with **by** (a certain time).

- **By 1966** Oprah **had decided** on a career.