

IT212 Grammar

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Trapassato prossimo and passato remoto

Trapassato prossimo (past perfect)

- The trapassato prossimo is a tense that is used to express what you **had** done.
- *By the time you arrived **we had already finished** =*
- **In Italian**, the *trapassato prossimo* is formed as follows:
- **the imperfect of the auxiliary of the verb**
+ the past participle of the verb

Io avevo visto (I had seen)

- *Io ero stato* (I have been)



Passato remoto* (historical past)

- **Il passato remoto** is used when recounting **historical events**
- **Il passato remoto** conveys a sense of detachment, and for this reason it is mostly used in the **third person singular or plural**
- The passato remoto describes an action which took place at a particular time in the past
- The passato prossimo is more widely used in contemporary writing and in spoken Italian
- *See conjugation (regular/irregular verbs) ch. 29 *Italian Grammar in Practice*

