

Perfect Form of verbs



Present Perfect Form

The present perfect form suggests that a past action is *still affecting the present*.

Simple past

Bess *met* the highwayman.

He *wore* his

hat.

Tim listened.

Present Perfect form

Bess *has met* the highwayman.

He *has worn* his

hat.

Tim *has* listened.

Bess met the highwayman *in the past* and she *still* knows him.

He wore his hat *in the past* and it is *still* on his head!

Tim listened *in the past* and he *still* heard them.

Perfect form

The perfect form marks relationships of **time** and **cause**.

PAST

Passage of time

NOW

He
galloped
away.

simple past tense
This happened in the *past*
at a time before now.

He *has galloped* away.

affects the
past

Past perfect form is used in
The Highwayman. It describes
events that were *completed in*
the past at the time of the
poem's narrative.

action... w away.

He *had galloped* away.

past perfect -
continued up to a time in the *past*.
It affected the *past*.

Past Perfect Form

The perfect form is created by using the auxiliary verb 'have/has' and the past participle of a verb.



*The highwayman **had ridden** across the moor.*

*He **had tapped** his whip on the shutters.*

*He **had whistled** a tune at the window.*

*Bess **had waited** for him.*

*She **had plaited** her hair into a love-knot.*

*They **had met** in secret.*

The **verbs** were completed (**perfected**) *in the past*. The result has an effect *on a past point* (the moment of the poem).
Past perfect form gives clues to time and cause.

Past Perfect Form

The perfect form is created by using the auxiliary verb 'have/has' and the past participle of a verb.

They *had tied* her up to attention.

*They have tied
her up to
attention.*

The landlord's black-eyed daughter *had watched* for her love in the moonlight.

*They tied her
up to attention.*

Can you spot the **past perfect** form of the verbs?

How would the timing change if it was in **simple past** or **present perfect** form?