WHAT IS PASSATO PROSSIMO?

In English it translates to present perfect, and it's used to talk about the past in Italian. It's a compound tense because it's formed by the auxiliary verb (either essere or avere) and the past participle (participio passato). For example, ho (auxiliary verb avere) mangiato (past participle), *I ate*.

WHAT IS IMPERFETTO?

In English it translates to imperfect, and it's used to talk about the past in Italian. It's a simple tense because it's simply formed by the main verb. For example, mangiavo, *I ate*.

PASSATO PROSSIMO	IMPERFETTO
General rules	
✓ To talk about actions or events that are finished in the past. ✓ Il Milan **ha vinto** la partita. *Milan won the game.*	✓ To talk about repetitive actions or events in past. ✓ Da piccola **andavo** dai nonni ogni domenica. *When I was little I used to go to my grandparent's every Sunday.*
Specific rules	
✓ To list a series of past actions or events. ✓ **Ho mangiato**, poi **ho guardato** la tele e infine **sono andata** a dormire. *I ate, then I watched TV, and at last I went to sleep.*	✓ For actions or events that happened at the same time in the past. ✓ Mentre io **cucinavo**, Vittorio **giocava**. *While I cooked, Vittorio played.*
✓ To indicate the beginning or the end of a past action or event. ✓ Il film **è iniziato** alle 21. *The movie started at 9 PM.*	✓ To express an ongoing past action or event that doesn't have a clear beginning or ending point. ✓ **Preferivo** correre. *I preferred running.*
✓ To express changes in past emotional, mental, or physical states. ✓ Mi **sono ammalata** perché non ho messo la giacca. *I got sick because I didn't wear the jacket.*	✓ To describe past emotional, mental, or physical states, including age. ✓ Quando **ero** incinta **mangiavo** molte patate. *When I was pregnant I ate many potatoes.*
✓ With words like: stamattina, tutto il giorno, ieri, due giorni fa, la settimana scorsa, il mese passato, una volta, per un anno, per due anni. ✓ Ieri **ho mangiato** gli spaghetti. *Yesterday I ate spaghetti.*	✓ With words like: mentre, sempre, di solito, spesso, ogni giorno, ogni settimana, ogni mese. ✓ **Mangiavo** sempre un panino a pranzo. *I always ate a sandwich for lunch.*

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WHEN ARE PASSATO PROSSIMO AND IMPERFETTO USED TOGETHER?

There are instances when these two tenses can be used together in a sentence to narrate a past event.

✓ The imperfetto is used for the action that is ongoing in the past.
✓ The passato prossimo is used for the action that interrupts the ongoing one.
✓ Mentre **pulivo**, **è saltata** la corrente. *While I cleaned, the electricity went out.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS