

## 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
<b>General rules</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To talk about actions or events that are finished in the past.</li><li>✓ Il Milan <b>ha vinto</b> la partita. <i>Milan won the game.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To talk about repetitive actions or events in past.</li><li>✓ Da piccola <b>andavo</b> dai nonni ogni domenica. <i>When I was little I used to go to my grandparent's every Sunday.</i></li></ul>
<b>Specific rules</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To list a series of past actions or events.</li><li>✓ <b>Ho mangiato</b>, poi <b>ho guardato</b> la tele e infine <b>sono andata</b> a dormire. <i>I ate, then I watched TV, and at last I went to sleep.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ For actions or events that happened at the same time in the past.</li><li>✓ Mentre io <b>cucinavo</b>, Vittorio <b>giocava</b>. <i>While I cooked, Vittorio played.</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To indicate the beginning or the end of a past action or event.</li><li>✓ Il film <b>è iniziato</b> alle 21. <i>The movie started at 9 PM.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To express an ongoing past action or event that doesn't have a clear beginning or ending point.</li><li>✓ <b>Preferivo</b> correre. <i>I preferred running.</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To express changes in past emotional, mental, or physical states.</li><li>✓ Mi <b>sono ammalata</b> perché non ho messo la giacca. <i>I got sick because I didn't wear the jacket.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ To describe past emotional, mental, or physical states, including age.</li><li>✓ Quando <b>ero</b> incinta <b>mangiavo</b> molte patate. <i>When I was pregnant I ate many potatoes.</i></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 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.</li><li>✓ Ieri <b>ho mangiato</b> gli spaghetti. <i>Yesterday I ate spaghetti.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ With words like: mentre, sempre, di solito, spesso, ogni giorno, ogni settimana, ogni mese.</li><li>✓ <b>Mangiavo</b> sempre un panino a pranzo. <i>I always ate a sandwich for lunch.</i></li></ul>

## 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.*