

Perfect Verb Forms

The Highwayman



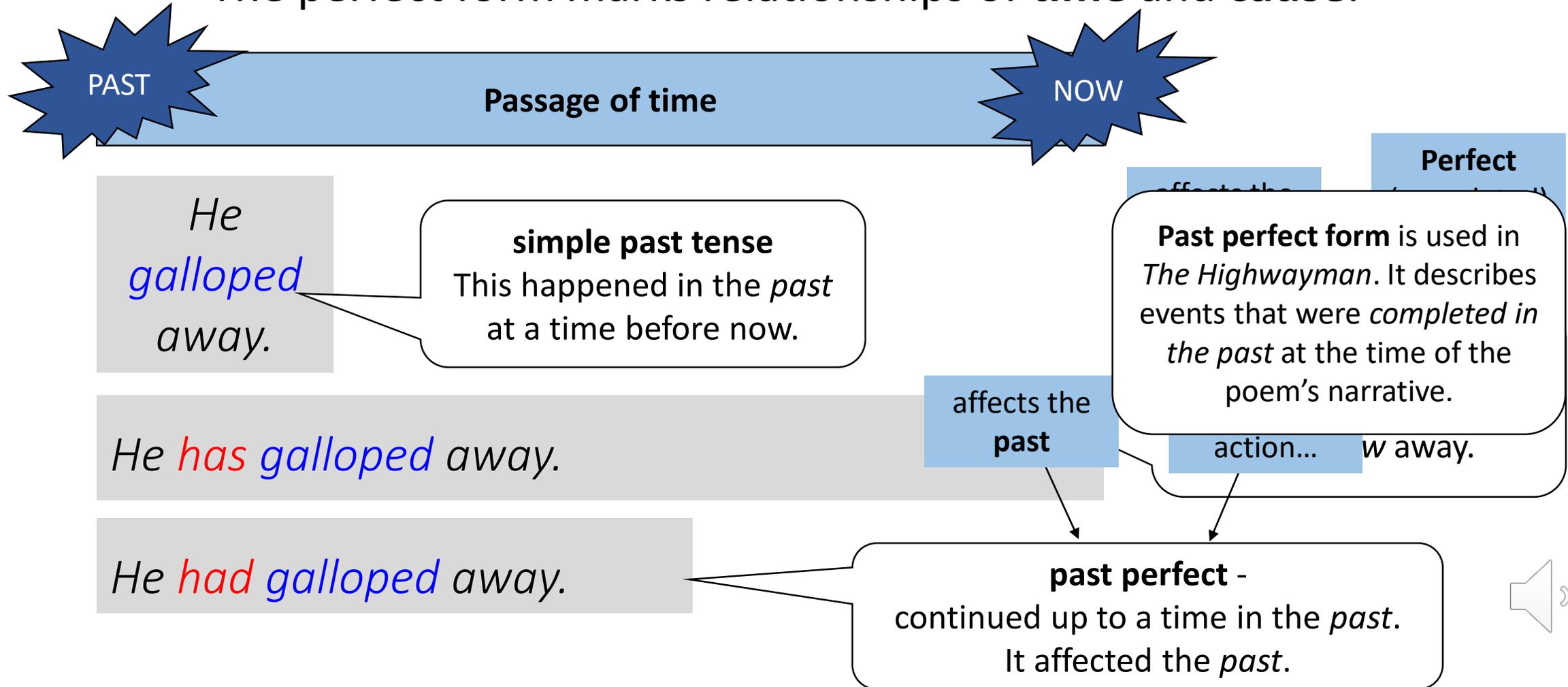
*The highwayman **had ridden** through the wood.*





Perfect form

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





Present Perfect Form



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

Simple past	Present Perfect form
<i>Bess met the highwayman.</i>	<i>Bess has met the highwayman.</i>
<i>He wore his hat.</i>	<i>He has worn his hat.</i>
<i>Tim listened.</i>	<i>Tim has listened.</i>

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.



Past Perfect Form

The past perfect form suggests that an action had an effect on another point in the past.



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.

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

They tied her
up to attention.

form of the

They have tied
her up to
attention.

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

Present Perfect and Past Perfect Forms

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

I brushed my hair (simple past).

I had brushed my hair (past perfect).

I have brushed my hair (present perfect).

She ate the pizza (simple past).

She had eaten the pizza (past perfect).

She has eaten the pizza (present perfect).

The **auxiliary verb** indicates whether the **verb** form is past or present.

For past perfect: use **had**.

For present perfect:

have is used for I, you, we and they,
has is used for third person (he, she).

