Le plus-que-parfait
The plus-que-parfait is very similar to passé-composé. Like the PC,

- It is a **PAST** tense
- It is a **COMPOUND** tense
When do I use the plus-que-parfait?

The plus-que-parfait is used to talk about an action which took place **PRIOR to ANOTHER** past action.
The plus-que-parfait...

- is the equivalent of THE PAST PERFECT

  On avait joué au foot = We had played soccer

- and looks like the PAST PERFECT!

  On avait joué au foot
  We had played soccer
Like the passé composé, the plus-que-parfait has 2 PARTS

HELPING VERB + MAIN VERB
So what's the difference?

- The only difference in conjugating the 2 tenses is the form of the AUXILIARY

- In Plus-que-parfait, the auxiliary is in the IMPARFAIT (and NOT the present tense)

- Let’s compare the 2 tenses:

  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>j’ai</th>
<th>joué</th>
<th>j’avais</th>
<th>joué</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tu as</td>
<td>joué</td>
<td>tu avais</td>
<td>joué</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>il/elle/on a joué</td>
<td>il/elle/on avait joué</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nous avons joué</td>
<td>nous avions joué</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vous avez joué</td>
<td>vous aviez joué</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ils/elles ont joué</td>
<td>ils/elles avaient joué</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What about the Main Verb?

- Just like in the passé composé, it’s in the *past-participle form* or *participe passé*.

- The same passé composé *rules apply* to plus-que-parfait:
  - Use the “être” auxiliary with verbs of motion (Dr. & Mrs. Vandertramp verbs!) AND pronominal verbs.
  - When using “être”, make the past participle *agree* with the subject.
  - Use the “avoir” helping verb with any other verbs.
Here are some examples of when you would need to use the Plus-que-parfait:

Mardi, j’ai fini les devoirs que je n’avais pas pu faire lundi.

Mes copains m’ont dit que le prof avait annulé le cours.

J’ai entendu dire que Mathieu s’était fiancé avec Zoé.

Tu savais que j’étais allé en France le semestre dernier?
So remember!

- If you want to talk about something that happened PRIOR to another past action, USE THE PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT!

- To conjugate a verb in the PLUS-QUE-PARFAIT, use AVOIR or ETRE in the IMPARFAIT + the past participle of the verb