**"Iти/йти"** is the infinitive (dictionary form) of an imperfective verb. It just means "to go (on foot)" as a process, without indicating if it is completed or not. Its past tense is "ішов/йшов". If by car or ANY transport – **їхав.**

**"Піти"** is the infinitive of a perfective verb. It roughly means "to start going, on foot". (If by transport – поїхав). It also implies the action is completed, since the action here is changing one's state: initial state = not moving, final state = moving. Is the action completed? Yes, since the state has successfully *changed*.

Also note that the difference between imperfective and perfective is much more that just "starting to do" vs "doing":

**Пішов/пішла/пішли** can mean a lot of things. Pretty often it means "to be leaving". For example, "я пішов" would normally mean I'm leaving (this place right now).

"**Пішов"** is like “left to go to”, "started going", "started moving to somewhere".

**Ішов vs Пішов vs Ходив** difference explained:

**Ішов** - *was heading* to one specific place, or at a specific time (*movement in progress*)

**Пішов** - set off for a specific destination, has gone to a specific place (beginning of the movement; not back yet)

**Ходив** - (1) went to a place and came back (round trip) = was somewhere; or (2) multiple round trips; or (3) aimless walking; or (4) habitual actions

**Example:**

Я ішов в магазин вчора, а потім пішов в кінотеатр, хоч раніше я ходив в цирк по суботам.

**Explaination:**

Я ішов в магазин вчора – I (*simply***) went** to the store yesterday (***specific time***),

а потім пішов в кінотеатр – then (***proceeded to go/started going/ left to go***) to movies,

хоч раніше я ходив в цирк по суботам – though *in the past* **I used to go to circus *every Saturday*** *(habitual action; frequency).*