

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

We use this tense to describe something that was happening or in progress before something else happened or vice-versa.

Examples:

When she came into the house she was very upset and she had been crying because she was in an accident.

Our baseball game had been cancelled because it had been raining hard all day.

Fernando finally had to go to the hospital because he had been drinking everyday for the last thirty years.

The streets were very slippery because it had been snowing for several hours. I was exhausted when we got to New York, I had been driving all day.

In the above examples one action was taking place and something else happened before. She had been crying because she was in an accident.

The baseball game was canceled because it had been raining.

Fernando went to the hospital because of his continuous action of drinking. The streets are slippery now because it was snowing for several hours.

I was tired because I had been driving all day.

The structure for the past perfect continuous is as follows:

SUBJECT +	HAD BEEN +	VERB in ING +	COMPLEMENTIZER
I	Had been	Studying	Spanish for three years. (but I stopped)
You	Had been	Working	All day, that is why you are tired.
He	Had been	Reading	That book for a week and he finished it.
She	Had been	Smoking	For years, now she has to go to the doctor.
It	Had been	Raining	And the game was cancelled.
We	Had been	Traveling	For years before we settled down.
They	Had been	Singing	All day, and now they have a sore throat.

Notice the difference between the present perfect continuous and the past perfect continuous.

**PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

I hope she finishes cooking soon, I've been waiting for an hour. She's tired, she's been swimming all day.

He's upset, he's been arguing with his girlfriend.

It's very noisy, the neighbors have been having a party since 12:00 PM. It's a nice day, the sun has been shining all day.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

She finally finished cooking; I had been waiting for an hour. She was tired, she had been swimming all day.

He was upset, he had been arguing with his girlfriend.

It was very noisy, the neighbors had been having a party. It was a nice day, the sun had been shining all day.

Notice that in the examples of the present perfect continuous the actions started in the past and are still taking place now. In the examples of the past perfect continuous the action started in the past and is no longer continuing.



Select the correct form of the past perfect progressive tense: **had been** plus the main verb in “ing” form.

Examples:

My dog _____ since it heard a strange noise.

- A. **had been barking** B. has been barking

1. The baby _____ since she woke up.

- A. has been crying B. had been crying

2. The streets were very slippery because it _____ for several hours.

- A. has been snowing B. had been snowing

3. We were very tired because we _____ all day.

- A. had been working B. have been working

4. They _____ using the same old recipe to make cookies, until they tried the one I just gave them.

- A. had been using B. have been using

5. My friends _____ for several years before they settle down.

- A. have been traveling B. had been traveling

6. By the time she finished cooking, I _____ for an hour.

- A. have been waiting B. had been waiting

7. It was a nice day, the sun _____ all day.

- A. had been shining B. has been shining

8. He told me that he _____ for a shortcut for several hours, before he found his way to our house.

- A. has been looking B. had been looking

9. He _____ on our project for a long time, before we officially hired him.

- A. had been working B. has been working

10. Carla said that she gained a few extra pounds, because she _____ a lot of sweets.

- A. had been eating B. has been eating