

Past Tense

⇒ Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The Past Perfect Continuous Tense is used to express **actions** or **events** that were ongoing in the past, up until a certain point in time. It helps us understand that an **action started earlier** in the **past** and **continued** for a period of time

⇒ Formation:

- Subject + had + been + verb (-ing form) + object (if any) + time expression (if any)
 - ✓ Example:
 - ✓ She **had finished** her work before she left.
 - ✓ They **had eaten** dinner when the guests arrived.

⇒ Usage

1. To indicate an action that was in progress before another past action or event:

- ✓ She had been working at the company for two years before she got a promotion.
- ✓ They **had been waiting** for the bus for an hour when it finally arrived.



2. To emphasize the duration of a past action leading up to another event:

- ✓ By the time he arrived, we **had been discussing** the project for over an hour.
- ✓ The ground was wet because it **had been raining** all night.

3. To explain the cause of a past situation or state:

- ✓ She was tired because she **had been studying** for the exam all night.
- ✓ They were hungry since they **had been hiking** for five hours.

⇒ Time Expressions :

- Some common time expressions used with the past perfect continuous tense include:

1. For (followed by a **period of time**): for two hours, for a week, for several months
2. Since (followed by a **specific point in time**): since 2015, since last summer, since 9 a.m.

⇒ Negative and Interrogative Forms :

- **Negative form: Subject + had + not + been + verb (-ing form) + object (if any)**
 - ✓ They **had not been living** in the house for more than a year.
 - ✓ She **had not been working** on the assignment all night.
- **Interrogative form: Had + subject + been + verb (-ing form) + object (if any) + time expression (if any) + ?**
 - ✓ **Had** they **been playing** soccer for two hours?
 - ✓ **Had** you **been waiting** for the train since morning?