



Past Perfect Continuous

The past perfect continuous verb tense, sometimes called the past perfect progressive, is the present participle form of a verb used with *had been*.

Past tense: I *ate*.

Past perfect: I *was eating*.

Past perfect continuous tense: I *had been eating*.

The past perfect continuous tense is used for showing an action that was ongoing or happening continually in the past and ended. It can also show a cause and effect.

Example 1: She *had been looking* for a red dress but bought a blue one instead.

Example 2: Zack could throw the ball farther because he *had been practicing*.

Part I: Circle the past perfect continuous verb tense in each of the following sentences.

1. Tom **had been learning** the piano before his grandmother bought him one.
2. They **had been playing** upstairs when the smoke alarm went off.
3. Ella **had been waiting** for an hour before she decided to leave.
4. I was tired because I **had been running** errands all day.
5. Since she **had been studying** hard, Amanda made a good grade on the test.

Part II: Fill in the blank with the past perfect continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Grace _____ (work) as a clerk for two years when she was promoted to manager.
2. I _____ (help) my mother with the dishes before Garrett called me.
3. The dog _____ (bark) all night when the neighbors finally called the police.
4. Because there was no rain, the vegetable garden _____ (die) slowly.
5. Liam was in trouble because he _____ (talk) in class.



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Part II: Fill in the blank with the past perfect continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

- Grace **had been working** (work) as a clerk for two years when she was promoted to manager.
- I **had been helping** (help) my mother with the dishes before Garrett called me.
- The dog **had been barking** (bark) all night when the neighbors finally called the police.
- Because there was no rain, the vegetable garden **had been dying** (die) slowly.
- Liam was in trouble because he **had been talking** (talk) in class.