

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous

Mum, last night I woke up and thought I **had eaten** a huge sponge cake.



Well, I'm not sure, but when I made my bed, half my pillow **had gone!**



Past Perfect: had + past participle

Affirmative

Negative

Interrogative

Long form

Short form

Long form

Short form

| | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| I had waited | I'd waited | I had not waited | I hadn't waited | Had I waited? |
| You had waited | You'd waited | You had not waited | You hadn't waited | Had you waited? |
| He had waited | He'd waited | He had not waited | He hadn't waited | Had he waited? |
| She had waited | She'd waited | She had not waited | She hadn't waited | Had she waited? etc |
| It had waited | It'd waited | It had not waited | It hadn't waited | Negative-Interrogative |
| We had waited | We'd waited | We had not waited | We hadn't waited | |
| You had waited | You'd waited | You had not waited | You hadn't waited | Hadn't you waited? |
| They had waited | They'd waited | They had not waited | They hadn't waited | Hadn't he waited? etc |

Past Perfect Continuous: had been + verb -ing

Affirmative

Negative

Interrogative

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| I had been waiting | I had not been waiting | Had I been waiting? |
| You had been waiting | You had not been waiting | Had you been waiting? |
| He had been waiting | He had not been waiting | Had he been waiting? |
| She had been waiting | She had not been waiting | Had she been waiting? |
| It had been waiting | It had not been waiting | Had it been waiting? |
| We had been waiting | We had not been waiting | Had we been waiting? |
| You had been waiting | You had not been waiting | Had you been waiting? |
| They had been waiting | They had not been waiting | Had they been waiting? |

Short form

Short form

Negative-Interrogative

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| I'd been waiting ... etc | I hadn't been waiting ... etc | Hadn't you been waiting? etc |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous

Time expressions used with Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous :

before, after, just, yet, already, for, since, ever, never, till/until, when, by, by the time etc

Past Perfect Simple is used:

for a past action which happened **before** another **past action** or **before** a stated **past time**.

She **had already left** when I got home.

She **had arrived** by 8 o'clock.

for a complete action.



She **had cleaned** the house by 6 o'clock.

as the past equivalent of Present Perfect.

(see p. 38)

She **isn't** in her office. She **has already left**.

(before a present time)

She **wasn't** in her office. She **had already left**.

(before a past time)

Past Perfect Continuous is used:

for an action continuing up to a specific time in the past.

He **had been waiting** for an hour before she arrived.

for a continuous, past action which had visible results or effect in the past.



He was tired. He **had been cleaning** the house all morning.

as the past equivalent of Present Perfect

Continuous. (see p. 38)

He **is** tired. He **has been working** hard all morning. (present time)

He **was** tired. He **had been working** hard all morning. (past time)

101

 Fill in the Present Perfect S. or Cont. or Past Perfect S. or Cont.


1. Her feet ached last Monday. ...
She ... *had been walking* ...
(walk) for six hours.

2. Don is cold. He
.....(swim)
in the lake.

3. He can't pay the bill.
He
(lose) his wallet.

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous



4. The woman drowned in the river. She
..... (fish).



5. He bought a car after he
..... (save) enough money.



6. She signed the letter after she
..... (write) it.



7. Her hair is wet. She
..... (wash) it.



8. He felt sick because he
..... (eat) too much.



9. He was hot. He
..... (run) for an hour.

Short answers

Had I/you/he/she/it/we/
you/they eaten lunch?

Yes, I/you/he/she/it/we/
you/they **had**.

No, I/you/he/she/it/we/
you/they **hadn't**.

102 Look at the picture, ask and answer questions as in the example:



It's the day after Christmas. Last night the Dicksons had a party at their house. What had they done and what hadn't they done before they went to bed?

- (they / open / all presents) ... *Had they opened all the presents? Yes, they had.*
- (they / drink / lemonade)
- (they / eat / all the cake)
- (they / let / cat in)
- (they / eat / turkey)
- (they / tidy / the room)

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous

103 Fill in Past Simple or Past Perfect, then state which action happened first.

1. When I *arrived* (arrive) at the station, the train *had left* (leave). **first action** : *had left*
2. We (light) the candles because the lights (go off).
first action :
3. When I got home I (discover) that somebody (break into) my flat.
first action :
4. The patient (die) before the ambulance (reach) the hospital.
first action :
5. John (eat) all the cakes by the time the other children (arrive) at the party. **first action** :

104 Write what each person had been doing using verbs from the list below.

sleep, write, walk, wash, play, cut, listen, work

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jane's clothes were wet. She ... <i>had been washing</i> ... her dog. 2. The boys were dirty. They football. 3. John was not happy that the noise woke him. He 4. Dave had stains on his shoes. He the grass. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Carol's ears hurt. She to the radio for two hours. 6. Kate had black ink on her hands. She for three hours. 7. Anne's feet hurt. She for two hours. 8. Nina looked tired. She all morning. |
|---|--|

Note the difference :

Past Perfect



When Tom phoned he **had left**.
(He left before Tom phoned.)

Past Simple



When she phoned he **left**.
(She phoned and then he left.)

Past Perfect Continuous



When she arrived they **had been fighting**.
(She arrived after the fight.)

Past Continuous



When she arrived they **were fighting**.
(When she arrived they were in the middle of the fight.)

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous

105 Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Simple.



1. John ... *lit* ... (light) the candles when she arrived.



2. George (light) the candles when she arrived.



3. When she arrived at the theatre he (buy) the tickets.



4. When she arrived at the theatre he (buy) the tickets.



5. When she came home they (have) dinner together.



6. When he came home she (already/have) dinner.

106 Write the situations (action up to a past time or interrupted action), then put the verbs into Past Perfect Continuous or Past Continuous.

1. ... *action up to a past time*



Her eyes were red. She
.. *had been crying* (cry).



She (cry) when he came in.



He (type) a letter when the fire started.

4.



She looked tired. She (type) letters all morning.

5.



He hit his head. He (play) football.

6.



He (play) football when the ball hit his head.

107 Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous.



Mr Thomas was exhausted. He 1) *had had* (have) the worst morning of his life! Everything 2) (go) wrong. He 3) (drive) to work for half an hour when suddenly his car broke down. Not wanting to be late he decided to start walking and try to catch a bus. After he 4) (walk) for over an hour, it began to rain. However, just at that moment a taxi appeared and Mr Thomas jumped in. When he arrived at the office, he realised that he 5) (leave) his wallet in his own car and he had no money to pay the driver! He rushed into the office, followed by the angry taxi driver. However, an important business meeting 6) (just/start). Mr Thomas was wet and dirty because it 7) (rain) and his boss was very angry because he 8) (wait) for him to arrive

for over an hour. After explaining what 9) (happen) to his boss, Mr Thomas borrowed a car and went home to change. When he arrived home he realised to his horror that someone 10) (break into) his house. What a morning!

108 Put the verbs in brackets into Past Perfect or Past Simple.

After Jim and Terry 1) *had finished* (finish) their breakfast, they 2) (take) their bags and 3) (go) to the river to fish. They 4) (go) there before and 5) (catch) some big fish. By 5 o' clock they 6) (not/get) any fish, so they decided to go home. They 7) (promise) their mother to bring fish for dinner, so they 8) (look) for a shop where they could buy some but the shops 9) (already/close). When they 10) (arrive) home, they 11) (tell) their mother that they 12) (catch) the biggest fish they 13) (ever/see) but it 14) (escape).



109 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

1. Tony *bought* (buy) a new shirt last Monday.
2. Ann is a teacher. She (teach) for fifteen years.
3. She (cook) lunch before the children came home.
4. How long (you / have) a driving licence?
5. She (type) some letters when the boss asked her into his office.
6. He (drive) for an hour when he reached the village.

8. Past Perfect - Past Perfect Continuous

110 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.



(advise) us to tell the public to stay indoors until they 14) (catch) the lion.”

“A lion 1) *has escaped* ... (escape) from London Zoo. The zoo-keeper 2) (clean) the lion’s cage when suddenly a lion 3) (bite) him and 4) (run) out of the cage. The zoo-keeper 5) (recover) in hospital now. When he 6) (arrive) at the hospital he 7) (lose) a lot of blood, but the doctors 8) (think) he will be alright. Lots of people 9) (see) the lion already. The police 10) (stop) a summer carnival which London Zoo 11) (plan) and at present they 12) (hunt) for the lion. They 13) (advise) us to tell the public to stay indoors until they 14) (catch) the lion.”

Oral Activity 15

The teacher divides the class into two teams and asks students in turn to give reasons why they were pleased the last time something nice happened. Each correct sentence gets 1 point. The team with the most points is the winner.

Team A S1: The last time I was pleased was because I had received a present.

Team B S1: The last time I was pleased was because I had passed a test.

Team A S2: The last time I was pleased was because I had won a prize. etc.

Oral Activity 16

The teacher divides the class into two teams and asks students to look at the following situations, giving reasons in turn for each situation. Each correct reason gets 1 point. The team with the most points is the winner.

1. Ben couldn't write the letter because ... *he had lost his pen.*
2. Jane missed the train because
3. He couldn't pay the electricity bill because
4. She failed her exam because
5. She was sad because
6. His hands were dirty because
7. He was wet because
8. They were hungry because since morning.
9. He had a stomach-ache because
10. They were tired because
11. He had a black eye because
12. Jennifer got sunburnt because for over five hours.