

# Past Perfect Continuous(Progressive)

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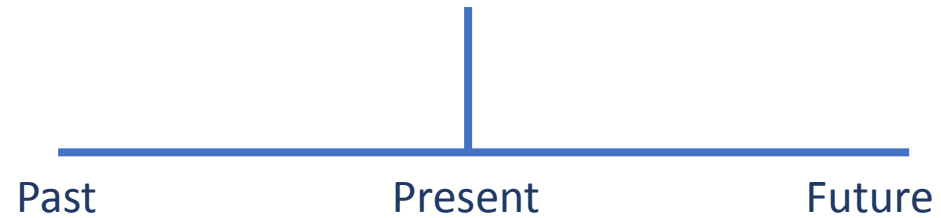
- The past perfect continuous (also called past perfect progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an action started in the past and continued up to another point in the past.

# Past Perfect Continuous Forms

The past perfect continuous is formed using **had + been + present participle**. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *had*. Negatives are made with *not*

- Statement: You **had been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- Question: **Had** you **been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived?
- Negative: You **had not been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.

## Past Perfect Continuous



Action started in the past and continued up to another point in the past

## Present Perfect Continuous



Action started in the past and has continued up until now

- "For five minutes" and "for two weeks" are both durations which can be used with the past perfect continuous. Notice that this is related to the present perfect continuous; however, the duration does not continue until now, it stops before something else in the past.

- They **had been talking** for over an hour before Tony arrived.
- She **had been working** at that company for three years when it went out of business.
- How long **had you been waiting** to get on the bus?
- Mike wanted to sit down because he **had been standing** all day at work.
- James **had been teaching** at the university for more than a year before he left for Asia.
- A: How long **had you been studying** Turkish before you moved to Ankara?  
B: I **had not been studying** Turkish very long.

- Using the past perfect continuous before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect.



- Jason was tired because he **had been jogging**.
- Sam gained weight because he **had been overeating**.
- Betty failed the final test because she **had not been attending** class.

# REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs

- It is important to remember that Non-continuous verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for mixed verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using past perfect continuous with these verbs, you must use past perfect.

- The motorcycle **had been belonging** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Not Correct**
- The motorcycle **had belonged** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Correct**

# Non-continuous verbs

These verbs are rarely used in continuous tenses. They include:

- **Abstract Verbs**

to be, to want, to cost, to seem, to need, to care, to contain, to owe, to exist...

- **Possession Verbs**

to possess, to own, to belong...

- **Emotion Verbs**

to like, to love, to hate, to dislike, to fear, to envy, to mind...

- He **is needing** help now. **Not Correct**
- He **needs** help now. **Correct**
- He **is wanting** a drink now. **Not Correct**
- He **wants** a drink now. **Correct**



## • ADVERB PLACEMENT

- for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

- You had **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived.
- Had you **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived?

## ACTIVE / PASSIVE

- Chef Jones **had been preparing** the restaurant's fantastic dinners for two years before he moved to Paris. *Active*
- The restaurant's fantastic dinners **had been being prepared** by Chef Jones for two years before he moved to Paris. *Passive*

NOTE: Passive forms of the past perfect continuous are not common.

# Tests

- <https://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs13.htm>
- <https://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs14.htm>