

Past Perfect Continuous(Progressive)

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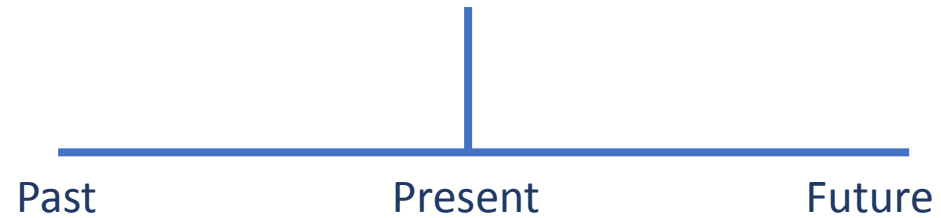
- The past perfect continuous (also called past perfect progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an action started in the past and continued up to another point in the past.

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>