

Verbs – to be

Present	am, is, are
Past	was, were
Future	will, shall
Perfect	have, has, had

Past perfect continuous tense

- it shows that an action that started in the past continued up until another time in the past.

eg: Pavithra **had been walking** four miles a day before she broke her leg.



Past perfect continuous tense

- sentences
- negative sentences
- questions

Subject	singular	Plural
First person	I	We
Second person	You	You
Third person	He, She, It, Name (ex: Sam)	They

a) Sentences – past perfect continuous

Subject	to be (had) + been + verb+ing	+ object
I, You, We, They	had been playing	football
He, She, It, Sam	had been playing	football

Example:

- i) I had been playing football.
- ii) You had been playing football.
- iii) We had been playing football.
- iv) They had been playing football.
- v) He had been playing football.
- vi) She had been playing football.
- vii) It had been playing football.
- viii) Sam had been playing football.

b) Negative sentences – past perfect continuous

Subject	to be (had) + not been + verb + ing	+ object
I, You, We, They	had not (hadn't) been going	to school
He, She, It, Sam	had not (hadn't) been going	to school

Example :

1. I had been going to school.	1. I had not been going to school.
2. You had been going to school.	2. You had not been going to school.
3. We had been going to school.	3. We had not been going to school.
4. They had been going to school.	4. They had not been going to school.
5. He had been going to school.	5. He had not been going to school.
6. She had been going to school.	6. She had not been going to school.
7. It had been going to school.	7. It had not been going to school.
8. Sam had been going to school.	8. Sam had not been going to school.

c) Questions – past perfect continuous

To be (had) + subject	been + verb +ing	+ object
Had I, Had you, Had we, Had they	been singing	song
Had he, Had she, Had it, Had Sam	been singing	song

Example :

1. I had been singing a song.	1. Had I been singing a song?
2. You had been singing a song.	2. Had you been singing a song?
3. We had been singing a song.	3. Had we been singing a song?
4. They had been singing a song.	4. Had they been singing a song?
5. He had been singing a song.	5. Had he been singing a song?
6. She had been singing a song.	6. Had she been singing a song?
7. It had been singing a song.	7. Had it been singing a song?
8. Sam had been singing a song.	8. Had Sam been singing a song?

Form the sentence in past perfect continuous tense

1. I _____ (work) all day, so I didn't want to go out.
2. She _____ (sleep) for 10 hours when I woke her up.
3. They _____ (live) in Delhi for four years when he lost his job.
4. When we met, you _____ (work) at that company for six months.
5. We _____ (eat) all day, so we felt a bit ill.

Form the sentence in past perfect continuous tense

6. He was tired because he _____ (run) in the marathon.

7. It _____ (rain) and the road was covered in water.

8. We _____ (go) out together very often.

9. When she moved to England, she _____ (learn) English for 12 years.

10. The passengers _____ (wait) for four hours before the staff could give them information on the delay of their flight.

Complete the sentence using past perfect continuous (negative)

1. She _____ (not / sit) at home for a long before she went out.

2. They _____ (not / stay) in a hotel before they found a flat.

3. You _____ (not / learn) English before you joined this company.

4. She _____ (not / sing) for a long time when that crazy woman attacked her.

5. You _____ (not / think) about that problem before Tom started talking about it.

Complete the sentence using past perfect continuous (negative)

6. We _____ (not / travel) all day before we got to Madurai.

7. They _____ (not / practice) the piano for long before they were ready to perform.

8. She _____ (not / train) to guide dogs for a long time before she changed her job.

9. My friends _____ (not / drink) the juice before they tasted it.

10. Maria _____ (not / drive) for many hours when that accident happened.

Make the past perfect continuous tense (Question)

1. Had _____ (my grandpa / sleep) for three hours when I woke him up?
2. Who _____ (knock) at the door?
3. _____ (he / plead) your case for one year?
4. _____ (the farmer / sow) seeds in the fields since morning?
5. Why _____ (you / call) me?

Make the past perfect continuous tense (Question)

6. _____ (she / respond) to your phone calls?

7. _____ (Mike / lie) to her?

8. _____ (she / see) him for long when they moved to Paris?

9. Why _____ (you / study) so hard?

10. What _____ (the children / do) ?

Additional worksheets



Fill in the blanks with the correct form of verb in the past perfect continuous tense:

1. We _____ (sleep) for 12 hours when he woke us up.
2. They ____ (wait) at the station when the train finally arrived.
3. We ____ (cycle) all day so our legs were not sore in the evening.
4. ____ you ____ (wait) so long to get on the bus?
5. She ____ (not attend) classes so she failed in her test.
6. ____ you ____ (study) Hindi before you moved to Mumbai?
7. He ____ (teach) at the university for more than a year.
8. They ____ (think) of calling the police when she walked in.