

Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Chapter 8

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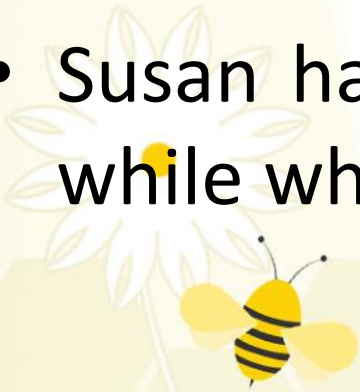


Past Perfect Continuous Tense

The Past Perfect Continuous (Progressive) is very similar to the Past Perfect. However, while using this tense, we focus on the duration of an activity rather than the result of it. The past perfect continuous is used to express how long something had been going on before something important happened in the past.

Something that had been happening before something else took place

- I had been working for three hours when you arrived.
- Susan had been thinking about the idea for a while when he made the suggestion.



Something that had been happening over a period of time in the past up until another point in the of past

- I had been playing tennis for two hours when I sprained my ankle.
- Jane had been studying for two years when he was drafted into the army

Something that had been happening in preparation for something else

- I had been practicing for three days and was ready for the concert.
- Tom had been studying hard and felt good about the test he was about to take.

Common time expressions

before, when

Pattern Of Positive sentences

- Subject + Auxiliary verb + Verb in ing
- Example :
 - I **had been** running for an hour when it started raining.
 - Mary said she **had never been swimming** so much in one day.

Pattern Of Interrogative Sentences

- Auxiliary verb + S + Auxiliary verb + Verb in ing

Example :

- For how many hours **had** Fred **been** painting the house when the ladder fell?
- How long **had** the player **been** playing before he scored?

Pattern Of Negative Sentences

- S + Auxiliary verb + not + Auxiliary verb + Verb in ing

Example :

- He said he wasn't tired because he **hadn't been** preparing his car.
- If it **hadn't been** raining, we would have played football.

Practice !

We (sleep)..... for 12 hours when he woke us up.

We had been sleeping for 12 hours when he woke us up.

1. They (wait) at the station for 90 minutes when the train finally arrived.
2. We (look for)..... her ring for two hours and then we found it in the bathroom.
3. I (not / walk)..... for a long time, when it suddenly began to rain.
4. How long (learn / she)..... English before she went to London?

Practice !

6. Frank Sinatra caught the flu because he (sing)in the rain too long.
7. He (drive)..... less than an hour when he ran out of petrol.
8. They were very tired in the evening because they (help)on the farm all day.
9. I (not / work)all day; so I wasn't tired and went to the disco at night.
10. They (cycle)all day so their legs were sore in the evening.



The End

See You In The Next Chapter

