

Past Perfect Continuous Tense indicates a past action which started in the past and continued to happen after another action and time in the past.

Forms

+ S + had been + V-ing + 0.

- S + hadn't been + V-ing + 0.

? Had + S + been + V-ing + 0?



A. Read the situations and complete the sentences using past simple and past perfect continuous.

- We played volleyball yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
We _____ when it _____.
- I had arranged to meet Peter in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After twenty minutes I suddenly realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
I _____ for twenty minutes when I _____.
- Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
by the time the factory _____, Sarah _____ there for five years.
- My mother went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly started shouting.
The orchestra _____ when _____.
- This time make your own sentence.
_____.

B. Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets in past perfect continuous.

- She was very tired when she arrived home.
(She/work/hard all day) She had been working hard all day.
- The two girls came into the house. They had a volleyball and they were both very tired.
(They/play/volleyball) _____.
- There was nobody in the room, but there was a smell of cigarettes.
(Somebody/smoke/in the room) _____.
- Peter woke up at midnight. He was frightened and didn't know where he was.
(He/dream) _____.
- When I got home, Rose was sitting in front of the TV. She had just turned it off.
(She/watch/tv) _____.

C. Complete these sentences using the words from the box. Use past perfect continuous.

Pay/bills stay / friends smoke/ cigar try / to steal/ a car attend/classes cycle/quite fast

- She returned to her house where she had been staying with her friend.
- Sue _____ until she reached the hill.
- I could tell that Alex _____ by the smell in the room and his guilty expression.
- The principal called Carmen into his office because she _____.
- I had to give Peter some money when I found out that he _____.
- He told the police that he _____. He thought it belonged to _____.