

Past Perfect Simple or Continuous?

The past perfect simple is used to talk about completed events which happened before another event in the past.

Example: I couldn't buy any milk, as **I had left** my wallet at home.

The past perfect continuous is used to describe events that started in the past and continued up until another time in the past.

Example: Tim went to the doctor because **he had been feeling** ill for a long time.

A. Complete the grammar rules with past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

- The is formed like this: subject + had / hadn't + been + verb + ing
- The is formed like this: subject + had / hadn't + past participle

B. Match the past perfect simple or continuous sentence halves together.

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| 1. Kim looked different, ... | a. before moving to Paris. |
| 2. My hands were covered in flour | b. I had won the lottery. |
| 3. Jim hadn't eaten | c. we had been driving for six hours. |
| 4. She had studied French | d. as she had lost 15 kilos. |
| 5. Jo was breathing hard because | e. so he couldn't drive home |
| 6. By the time we arrived, ... | f. she had been running for an hour. |
| 7. Ken had been drinking all evening, ... | g. because I had been baking all day. |
| 8. I was delighted when I found out that | h. lunch, so he was very hungry. |

C. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets in the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

- Mary (cry) all night, so her face was red.
- The train (leave) by the time I got to the station.
- The team lost the game because they (not / practice) enough.
- I (clean) the house, so I had a cloth in my hand.
- We were celebrating because we (pass) all our exams.
- My eyes were tired, as I (work) on the computer all day.
- Our car (break down), so we had to take the bus.
- I couldn't go out to play, as I (not / do) my homework.