Past Perfect Continuous

Basic 5

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 + O.
- S + hadn't been + V-ing + O.
? Had + S + been + V-ing + O?

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

1. We played voleyball yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
   We _____ when it _____

2. 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 _____

3. Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
   by the time the factory _____, Sarah _____ there for five years.

4. 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 _____.

5. This time make your own sentence.
   _____.

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

1. She was very tired when she arrived home.
   (She/work/hard all day) She had been working hard all day.

2. The two girls came into the house. They had a voleyball and they were both very tired.
   (They/play/voleyball) _____.

3. There was nobody in the room, but there was a smell of cigarettes.
   (Somebody/smoke/in the room) _____.

4. Peter woke up at midnight. He was frightened and didn't know where he was.
   (He/dream) _____.

5. 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

1. She returned to her house where she had been staying with her friend.

2. Sue _____ until she reached the hill.

3. I could tell that Alex _____by the smell in the room and his guilty expression.

4. The principal called Carmen into his office because she _____

5. I had to give Peter some money when I found out that he _____

6. He told the police that he _____. He thought it belong[illegible]

LIVEWORKSHEETS