# Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Terminology: This tense is also called Past Perfect Progressive

Verb Form: had + been + verb-ing

Use:

This tense, like the Past Perfect Tense, is usually used in pair with the Past Simple Tense. **This tense is used to <u>EMPHASIZE</u> the continuity of the action from some time in the past up to another time in the past.**

- He had been sleeping for three hours when we called on him.
- I had been living in Florida before I moved to California.
- It had been snowing all week
- We had been playing golf before it started to rain.
- They had been working on the project for six months.

[The action sleeping started from some time in the past and continued up to the time when the action calling occurred. Both actions occurred in the past. The first action lasted along until the second action occurred.]

**Note**: If the speaker does not want to emphasize the continuity of the action,

only the Simple Perfect Tense is used; as,

General: He had slept for three hours when we called on him.

Emphatic: He had been sleeping for three hours when we called on him.

General: Mrs. Smith had worked in the office for two years before she got a raise in salary.

Emphatic: Mr. Smith had been working in the office for two years before she got a raise in salary.

**Also note that the action that happened later is always in the Past Simple Tense.**

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**Use either the past simple or the past perfect of the verbs in parentheses.**

Example: She had been sleeping (sleep) for ten hours when I woke (wake) her.

1. I _____ (wait) for hours so I was really glad when the bus finally _____ (arrive).
2. Why _____ (be) the baby's face so dirty? He _____ (eat) chocolate.
3. I _____ (see) John yesterday, but he _____ (run) so he was too tired to chat.
4. It _____ (rain) and the pavement _____ (be) with puddles.
5. When I _____ (arrive) it was clear she _____ (work). There were papers all over the floor and books everywhere.
6. They _____ (study) all day so when we _____ (meet) they _____ (be) exhausted.
7. The boss _____ (talk) to clients on Skype for hours so she _____ (want) a break.
8. I _____ (drink) coffee all morning. By lunchtime, I _____ (feel) really strange!
9. Lucy _____ (hope) for a new car, so she really pleased when she _____ (get) one.
10. I _____ (dream) about a holiday in Greece. I couldn't believe it when my husband _____ (book) one as a surprise!
11. They _____ (live) in Beijing for three years when he _____(lose) his job.
12. When we _____(meet), you _____ (work) at that company for six months.
13. We _____ (eat) all day, so we _____(feel) a bit ill.
14. He _____ (be) red in the face because he _____ (run).
15. It _____ (rain) and the road _____ (be) covered in water.

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