c Circle the correct form. If both forms are possible, circle them both.

1 How long have you (known) / been knowing your boyfriend?
2 She's gone / been going to the same hairdresser for years.
3 They've worked / been working in that bank since 2003.
4 He's slept / been sleeping since three o'clock!
5 How long have you lived / been living here?
6 They've looked / been looking for a new flat for ages.
7 How long have you had / been having your bike?

Past perfect and past simple

Past perfect	
Affirmative	**Negative**
I / You / He / She / It / We / You / They had finished.	I / You / He / She / It / We / You / They hadn't changed.
Questions	**Short answers**
Had I / you / he / she / it / we / you / they arrived?	Yes, they had. No, I hadn't.

Use

The past simple is used to talk about a finished action which happened at a specific time in the past.

Two months ago Laura gave Fred an mp3 player for his birthday.

The past perfect is used to talk about an action in the past which happened **before** another more recent past action. The events do not need to be presented in chronological order as the tense shows which happened first.

Last week Fred lost the mp3 player that Laura had given him for his birthday.
First action: Laura gave Fred an mp3 player.
Second action: Fred lost the mp3 player.

The programme had started when I turned on the TV.
First action: The programme started.
Second action: I turned on the TV.

Arnold celebrated after he had passed his exams.
First action: Arnold passed his exams.
Second action: He celebrated.

1. Fill in the blanks with the past perfect tense:

a. The storm destroyed the sandcastle that we (build) _____.
b. He _____ (not /be) in Cape Town before 1997.
c. When she went out to play, she (do / already) _____ her homework.
d. My brother ate all of the cake that our mum (make) _____.
e. The doctor took off the plaster that he (put on) _____the week before.
f. The waiter brought a drink that I (not / order) _____.
g. I could not remember the poem we (learn) _____ the week before.
h. (He/phone) _____ Angie before he went to see her in London?

2. Now put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense: past perfect or simple past. Remember that the action signaled by the past perfect happened before the action signaled by the simple past.

Pat _____ ***(live)*** in London before he _____ ***(move)*** to Rome.
Answer: Pat ***had lived*** in London before he ***moved*** to Rome.

1) After Fred _____ ***(spend)*** his holiday in Italy he _____ ***(want)*** to learn Italian.
2) Jill _____ ***(phone)*** Dad at work before she _____ ***(leave)*** for her trip.
3) Susan _____ ***(turn on)*** the radio after she _____ ***(wash)*** the dishes.
4) When she _____ ***(arrive),*** the match _____ already _____ ***(start)***.
5) She _____ ***(watch)*** a video after the children _____ ***(go)*** to bed.
6) After Eric _____ ***(make)*** breakfast he _____ ***(phone)*** his friend.

LIVEWORKSHEETS