

**1** You are going to hear a teenage boy called Richard talking to his mother. Before you listen, look at the picture and answer these questions.

1 How has Richard spent the weekend? \_\_\_\_\_

2 How does his mother feel? Why? \_\_\_\_\_



**3** **▶ 06** Listen again and fill in the gaps. Stop the recording when you need to.

Richard: I (1) *'d done* the ceiling, and I (2) \_\_\_\_\_ one wall, when I (3) \_\_\_\_\_ paint.

Richard: And yesterday afternoon I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ bored. I (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to town for a few hours – you know, round the centre. I (6) \_\_\_\_\_ the shopping – everything on your list – and I (7) \_\_\_\_\_ all my homework.

Mother: I (8) \_\_\_\_\_ for only an hour when the car (9) \_\_\_\_\_.

## 1 Past perfect simple

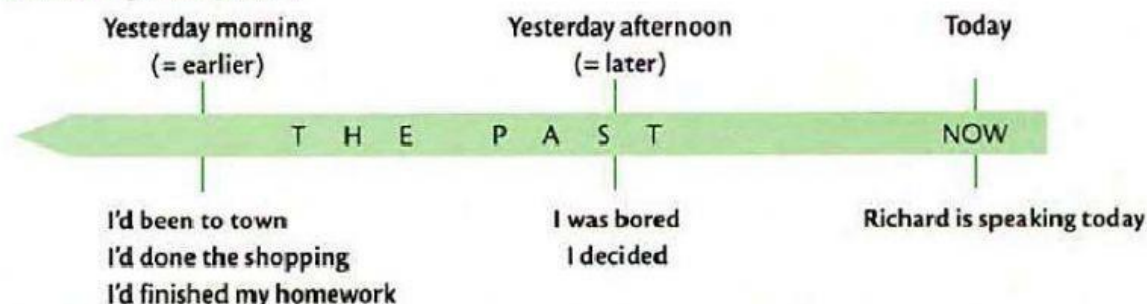
Present perfect simple

+	had + past participle	<i>He'd painted the ceiling.</i>
–	had not + past participle	<i>He hadn't painted the ceiling.</i>
?	had ... + past participle?	<i>Had he painted the ceiling?</i>

We use the past perfect simple:

- when we are already talking about the past and want to make it clear that we are referring back to an even earlier time:

*Yesterday afternoon I was bored. I'd been to town, I'd done the shopping and I'd finished all my homework so I decided to paint my room.*



- in some sentences with time expressions (*when, after, by the time, as soon as*) when one event happened before the other:

*I'd painted one wall when I ran out of paint.*

*By the time Richard's mother got home, he'd finished painting the room.*

- with the adverbs *just, already, ever* and *never*. They go between the auxiliary and the main verb (> see also Unit 8):

*He'd just finished painting when his mother came in.*

*When she got home he'd already finished painting the room.*

We don't use the past perfect:

- if one action happened at the same time as another:  
*When Richard's mother **saw** the room, she **was** horrified.* (not *When Richard's mother ~~had seen~~ ...*)
- if one action happened immediately after the other and was connected to it. In sentences like these, the first action is often the cause of the second:  
*When Jill **heard** the baby cry, she **ran** to pick him up.* (not *When Jill ~~had heard~~ ...*)



## 2 Past perfect continuous

+	<i>had been + verb + -ing</i>	<i>I'd been working hard.</i>
-	<i>had not been + verb + -ing</i>	<i>She <del>hadn't been</del> working hard.</i>
?	<i>had ... been + verb + -ing?</i>	<i>Had you been working hard?</i>

We use the past perfect continuous:

- to emphasise a continuous activity or how long it continued:  
*He **had a headache** because he'd **been playing** computer games for hours.*
- when we talk about how long something happened up to a point in the past:  
*How long **had** you **been driving** when the car broke down?*  
*By the time she arrived I'd **been waiting** for two hours.*

We use the past perfect simple:

- when we do not need to emphasise a continuous activity or the period of time:  
*He'd **played** all of the computer games and wanted to do something different.*
- when we talk about how many or how often up to a point in the past:  
*I'd **driven** six kilometres when the car broke down.*  
*By the time I was 18 I'd **visited** Canada six times.*

⚠ State verbs (> see Unit 1, B3) are not usually used in the past perfect continuous:  
*I'd **known** her since she was four years old.* (not *I'd ~~been knowing~~ her ...*)

## 3 Fill in the gaps with suitable verbs in the past perfect continuous.

- The phone had been ringing for several minutes before I heard it.
- Katya \_\_\_\_\_ (not) German with Mr Fauser for very long when he retired.
- Liz didn't know about the surprise party which her parents \_\_\_\_\_ for weeks.
- I was very pleased when the bus finally arrived because I \_\_\_\_\_ that I would be late for work.
- When the doctor eventually called my name I \_\_\_\_\_ for 40 minutes.
- My brother lost his job because he \_\_\_\_\_ jokes to everyone in the office by email.

wait – send – worry  
– learn – plan



**4** Each of these sentences has a verb in the past perfect simple. Is it possible to replace it with the past perfect continuous?

- 1 I'd worked for the engineering company for three months before I realised my neighbour also worked there.

Yes - I'd been working

- 2 As soon as George had finished the race, he drank three glasses of water.

- 3 Everything was white because it had snowed heavily during the night.

- 4 My parents were delighted when I qualified because they had always wanted me to be a doctor.

- 5 She was exhausted when she got out of the pool because she'd swum three kilometres.

- 6 We'd only just sat down at our table when the waitress came to take our order.

**5** Fill in the gaps with the past simple, past perfect or past perfect continuous form of the verbs.

- 1 I 'd never ridden (never ride) a bike until I went (go) to live in Amsterdam.

- 2 When Martin came (come) into the room, his mother nearly fainted (faint) because she hadn't seen (not see) him for nearly 20 years.

- 3 We were held up in a traffic jam so the concert hadn't begun (begin) by the time we arrived (arrive).

- 4 How long had you been applying (you / apply) for jobs when you got (get) this one?

- 5 I hadn't seen (not see) Lisa when I went round last night because she had gone (go) to stay with her grandmother.

- 6 I had been driving (drive) for about four hours when I realised (realise) that I was completely lost.

- 7 When I went (go) into the room, everyone had stopped (stop) talking and was looking (look) at me.

- 8 After he had washed (wash) his clothes, he hung (hang) them outside to dry.