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.

1. The ..... is formed like this: subject + had / hadn't + been + verb + ing

2. The ..... is formed like this: subject + had / hadn't + past participle

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

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.

1. Mary ..... (cry) all night, so her face was red.

2. The train ..... (leave) by the time I got to the station.

3. The team lost the game because they ..... (not / practice) enough.

4. I ..... (clean) the house, so I had a cloth in my hand.

5. We were celebrating because we ..... (pass) all our exams.

6. My eyes were tired, as I ..... (work) on the computer all day.

7. Our car ..... (break down), so we had to take the bus.

8. I couldn't go out to play, as I ..... (not / do) my homework.

LIVEWORKSHEETS