



Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous



In the lesson you'll do the following:



revise the formation of Past Perfect and Past Perfect Continuous Tenses;



compare the usage of past tenses in different situations;



revise time expressions (markers);



use the past tenses in the given sentences and situations.

James **had** already **seen off** his guests when his parents came back home.



Past Perfect

*(He saw off his guests first.
And his parents came afterwards)*

one past action happened before another past action in the past

Past Perfect

regular

V + ed

had

+

V₃

irregular

He **had** invited / seen off his guests.

?

I
Had he/she/it invited /
we/you/th seen off
ey his

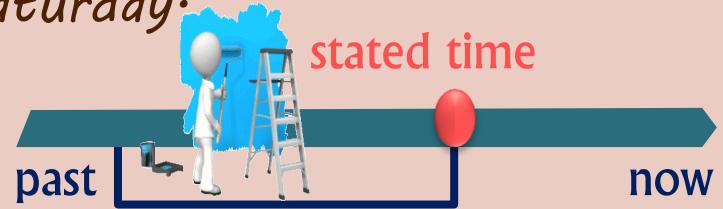
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I
he/she/it
we/you/they
had not
(hadn't) invited / seen off
his guests.

Simple

a complete action at a stated time in the past.

*I **Painted** my bedroom last Saturday.*

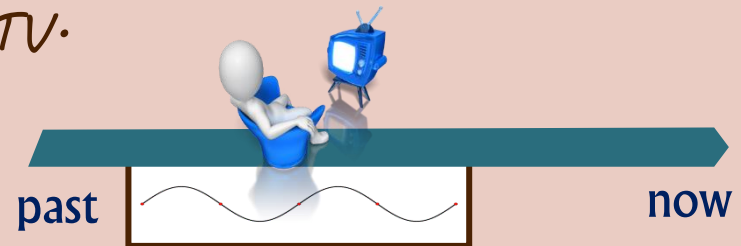


Contin.

an action which was in progress at a stated time in the past.

We don't mention when it started or finished.

*She **was crying** while watching TV.*



Perfect

one past action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past.

*I **took** the books back to the library when I **had read** them.*

Past Perfect

Past Simple



Simple

the actions which happened one after the other in the past.

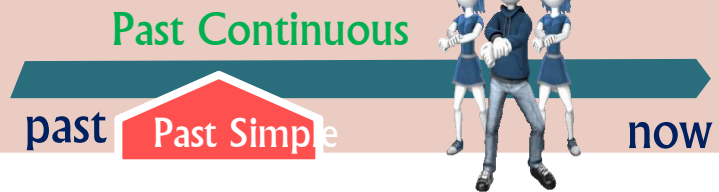
He ^Aknocked her down, ^Bgrabbed her purse and ^Cran off.



Contin.

an action which was in progress when something else happened.

We *were dancing* when one of the neighbors *came*.



Perfect

an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.

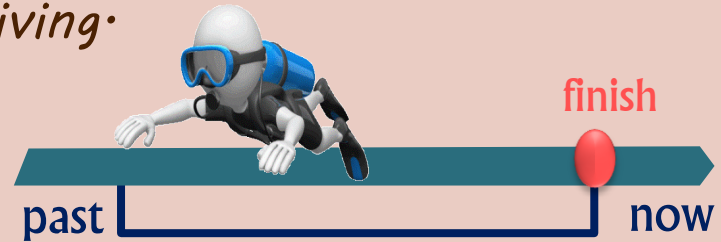
He *was tired* because he *had worked* hard all day.



Simple

for past habits and states which are now finished. In such cases we can also use **used to**.

He *went / used to go* scuba diving.



Contin.

two or more simultaneous past actions.

She *was doing* shopping while he *was reading* papers.



Perfect

The Past Perfect is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect.



Past P.

There *were* no sandwiches left. He *had eaten* them all.

Present P.

There *are* no sandwiches left. He *has eaten* them all.

Simple

to talk about the lives of people who are no longer alive.



Edison *invented* the light bulb.

Contin.

to describe the atmosphere, weather or place before we describe the main event.

He *was walking* down a quiet country road. The birds *were singing*, the butterflies *were flying*.



P.Simple / P.Contin. / P.Perfect
think. hope. mean. expect. etc.
for things we hoped to do but didn't.



I hoped / was hoping / had hoped her to call me, but she didn't.



Time markers

Past Simple

yesterday
last
night/week/month/year
two
days/weeks/months
ago
then
when
How long ago...?
in 1992/1845

Past Continuous

while
when
as
all day/morning
yesterday
at noon yesterday
the whole night
yesterday
from 5 to 6 yesterday

Past Perfect

before
after
already
till / until
by the time
never / ever
for
since
just

Read the sentences, identify the tenses, then match them with the correct description.

1. Mila opened a wardrobe, took out a dress and put it on.
2. Titanic was sailing across the Atlantic when it hit an iceberg.
3. The film had finished by the time they got home.
4. He was happy because he had found a new job.
5. She went to Canada last year.
6. Sue was lying in the sun while the children were playing in the pool.

- a. two or more simultaneous past actions.
- b. an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.
- c. an action which was in progress when something else happened.
- d. a complete action at a stated time in the past.
- e. the actions which happened one after the other in the past.
- f. one past action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past.

Choose the correct time expression.

I **still/ yet/ just** hadn't done my homework when Mum came back home.

I **still** hadn't done my homework when Mum came back home.

He was cooking **while** she was sleeping.

He was cooking **before/ while/ as soon as** she was sleeping.

How long ago did you pass your driving test?

How long ago/ How long/ Until did you pass your driving test?

He continued his journey **after** he had filled the car.


He continued his journey **before/ after/ yet** he had filled the car.

Our team had scored two goals **till/ yet/ by the time** we arrived at the stadium.

Our team had scored two goals **by the time** we arrived at the stadium.

I haven't been to Amsterdam **for two years**.

I haven't been to Amsterdam **never/ after/ for two years**.

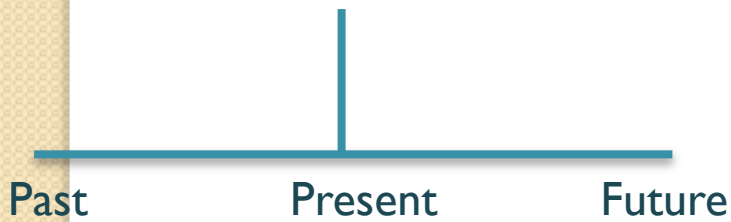
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- The past perfect continuous (also called past perfect progressive) is a verb tense which is used to show that an action started in the past and continued up to another point in the past.

Past Perfect Continuous Forms

The past perfect continuous is formed using **had + been + present participle**. Questions are indicated by inverting the subject and *had*. Negatives are made with *not*

- Statement: You **had been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.
- Question: **Had** you **been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived?
- Negative: You **had not been waiting** there for more than two hours when she finally arrived.

Past Perfect Continuous



Action started in the past and continued up to another point in the past

Present Perfect Continuous



Action started in the past and has continued up until now

- "For five minutes" and "for two weeks" are both durations which can be used with the past perfect continuous. Notice that this is related to the present perfect continuous; however, the duration does not continue until now, it stops before something else in the past.

- They **had been talking** for over an hour before Tony arrived.
- She **had been working** at that company for three years when it went out of business.
- How long **had you been waiting** to get on the bus?
- Mike wanted to sit down because he **had been standing** all day at work.
- James **had been teaching** at the university for more than a year before he left for Asia.
- A: How long **had you been studying** Turkish before you moved to Ankara?
- B: I **had not been studying** Turkish very long.

- Using the past perfect continuous before another action in the past is a good way to show cause and effect.

Past Present Future

- Jason was tired because he **had been jogging**.
- Sam gained weight because he **had been overeating**.
- Betty failed the final test because she **had not been attending** class.

REMEMBER Non-Continuous Verbs/ Mixed Verbs

- It is important to remember that Non-continuous verbs cannot be used in any continuous tenses. Also, certain non-continuous meanings for mixed verbs cannot be used in continuous tenses. Instead of using past perfect continuous with these verbs, you must use past perfect.

- The motorcycle **had been belonging** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Not Correct**
- The motorcycle **had belonged** to George for years before Tina bought it. **Correct**

Non-continuous verbs

These verbs are rarely used in continuous tenses. They include:

- **Abstract Verbs**

to be, to want, to cost, to seem, to need, to care, to contain, to owe, to exist...

- **Possession Verbs**

to possess, to own, to belong...

- **Emotion Verbs**

to like, to love, to hate, to dislike, to fear, to envy, to mind...

• He **is needing** help now. **Not Correct**

• He **needs** help now. **Correct**

• He **is wanting** a drink now. **Not Correct**

• He **wants** a drink now. **Correct**

• **ADVERB PLACEMENT**

- for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

- You had **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived.
- Had you **only** been waiting there for a few minutes when she arrived?

ACTIVE / PASSIVE

- Chef Jones **had been preparing** the restaurant's fantastic dinners for two years before he moved to Paris. *Active*
- The restaurant's fantastic dinners **had been being prepared** by Chef Jones for two years before he moved to Paris. *Passive*

NOTE: Passive forms of the past perfect continuous are not common.



**PAST PERFECT SIMPLE
VERSUS
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**

PAST PERFECT

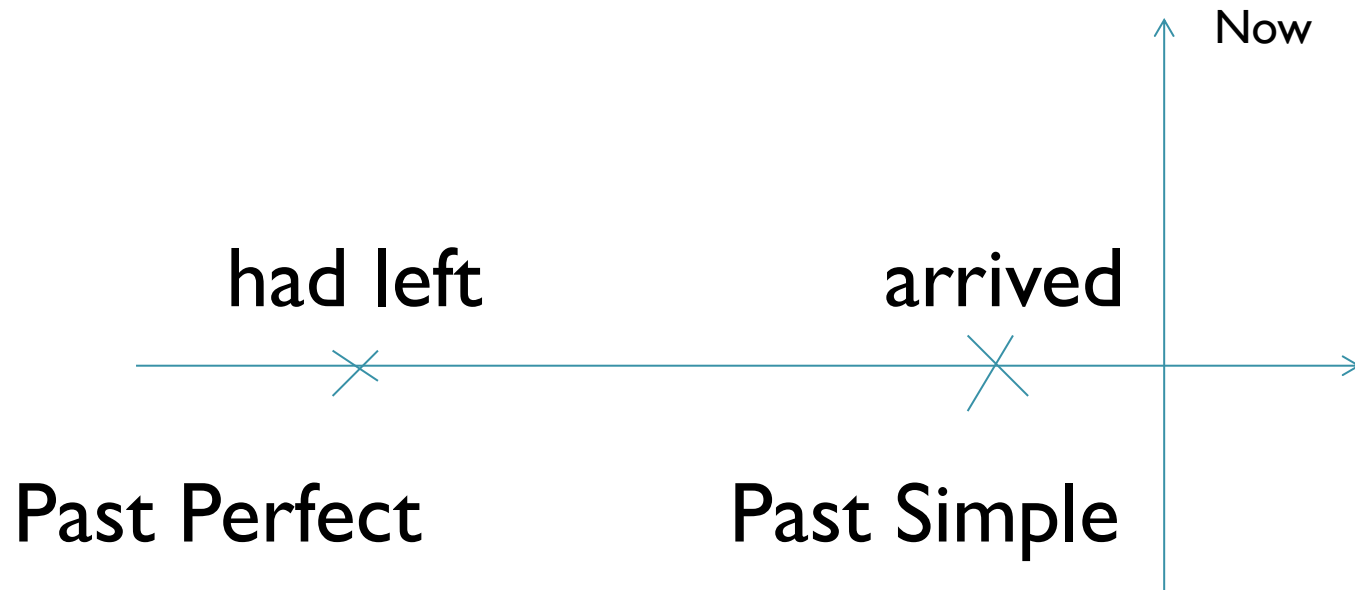
FORM: had+Ved/V3

USE: one action happened before the other

TIME EXPRESSIONS:

- Yesterday by ____ o'clock
- Before some time in the past

She had left when he arrived.



Concept questions

1. Are we talking about the past?
2. How many actions are there in the past?
3. Did both actions happen at the same time?
4. Did one action happen before the other?
5. Which action happened first?

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORM: had+been+Ving

USE: 1) duration of an activity up to a past point in time

2) result of an activity at a past point in time

TIME EXPRESSIONS:

- Yesterday since _____
- For some time in the past

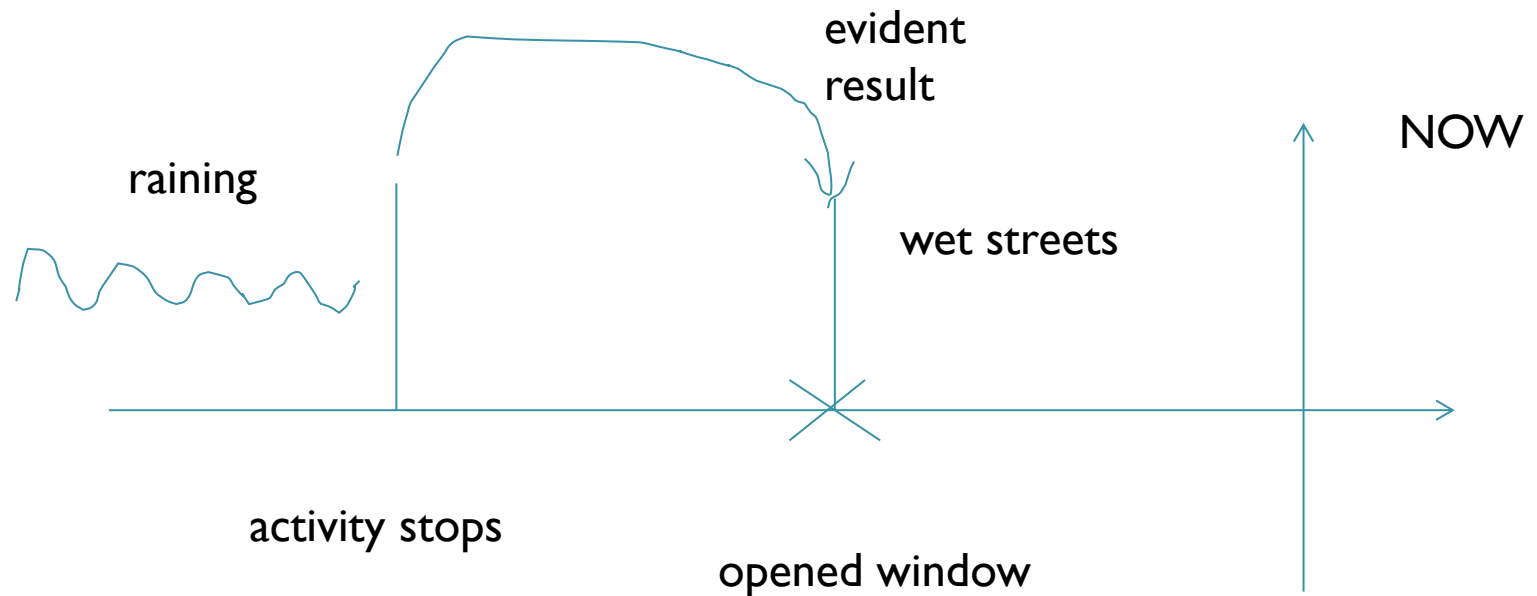
They had been swimming in the water for two hours when they were rescued



Concept questions

1. How long were they swimming in the water?
2. Did they stop swimming when they were rescued?

I opened the window and saw the streets were wet. It had been raining.



Concept questions

1. Was it raining when I opened the door?
2. Did it stop raining a short time before this?
3. How did I know?