

Past Perfect Continuous

Grammar Drill Pack

Focus: Distinguishing past perfect continuous from simple past and past perfect forms — five short drills to lock in **Past Perfect Continuous**.

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____ Score _____

1 · Rules

- ◆ Use the past perfect continuous to show an action that started before another past event and continued up to that time.
- ◆ Form it with had + been + present participle (verb-ing).
- ◆ It often appears with time expressions such as for, since, by the time, before.
- ◆ Use it to emphasize the duration of a past activity.

2 · Signal words

for since by the time before until already when as long as

Tip: These words often flag **Past Perfect Continuous** — spot them, then choose the form.

3 · Gap-fill drill

Write the correct form of **Past Perfect Continuous** in each gap.

- 1 They _____ for the bus when it finally arrived.
- 2 I _____ at the company for five years before I got promoted.
- 3 She _____ the novel all night before she fell asleep.
- 4 We _____ in the city since 2010 when we decided to move.
- 5 He _____ the piano for two hours before the lesson was cancelled.
- 6 The team _____ hard by the time the tournament started.

4 · Error correction

Each sentence has one mistake in Past Perfect Continuous. Rewrite it correctly.

1 ~~She was studying English for three months before the exam.~~

2 ~~They had traveled across Europe when they heard the news.~~

3 ~~I waited at the station for an hour when the train finally left.~~

4 ~~He worked on the project since Monday before the deadline.~~

5 ~~We discussed the plan for weeks before it was approved.~~

6 ~~The children played in the garden when it started to rain.~~

5 • Mini-quiz

Choose the correct option (A-D).

1 Choose the correct form to complete the sentence: 'By the time the movie started, we ___ (wait) for half an hour.'

(A) had been waiting

(B) were waiting

(C) have waited

(D) waited

2 Select the sentence that correctly uses the past perfect continuous.

(A) She had been cooking dinner when the guests arrived.

(B) She has been cooking dinner when the guests arrived.

(C) She was cooking dinner when the guests arrived.

(D) She cooked dinner when the guests arrived.

3 Fill in the blank: 'He ___ (work) at the firm for ten years before he decided to retire.'

(A) had been working

(B) worked

(C) has worked

(D) was working

4 Which sentence correctly shows duration before a past event?

(A) They had been traveling for months before they reached the coast.

(B) They traveled for months before they reached the coast.

(C) They have been traveling for months before they reached the coast.

(D) They were traveling for months before they reached the coast.

5 Identify the correct past perfect continuous form:

(A) I had been reading the report when the manager called.

(B) I have been reading the report when the manager called.

(C) I was reading the report when the manager called.

(D) I read the report when the manager called.

6 Choose the appropriate tense: 'By the time she arrived, we ___ (talk) for an hour.'

(A) had been talking

(B) were talking

(C) have talked

(D) talked