

VERBS, PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The **past perfect continuous** is used to indicate that the **actions or events were in progress for some times in the past and ended in the past.**

Past perfect continuous is formed with “**had been**” plus a **present participle**. The present participle is the verb in **base form** plus the suffix **-ing**.

Past Simple

We went to school.

She studied English.

Past Continuous

We **were going** to school.

She **was studying** English.

Past Perfect Continuous

We **had been going** to school

She **had been studying** English.

Verbs in **past simple** describe actions that were complete or habitual in the past. Verbs in **past continuous** or **past perfect continuous** describe actions that took place over a period of time in the past.

When the **past simple** and **past continuous** or **past perfect continuous** are together in a sentence, the past continuous or past perfect continuous verb expresses the longer lasting action while the past simple verb conveyed a short, interrupting action.

I **was jogging** when she spotted me. (“**jogging**” is the longer lasting action than “spotted”)

I **had been jogging** when she spotted me.

We **were having** breakfast when you called. (“**having**” is the longer lasting action than “called”)

We **had been having** breakfast when you called.

They **were studying** art when the opportunity came. (“**studying**” is the longer lasting action than “came”)

They **had been studying** art when the opportunity came.

Practice1: Change the sentences from the past continuous to the past perfect continuous.

1. His friend **was car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **was mopping** the floor.
3. School **was shaping** my future.
4. They **were playing** tennis.
5. She **was setting up** for dinner.
6. He **was stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **was vying** for her attention.
8. I **was having** good feelings when he was around.
9. He **was having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **was being** myself.
11. He **was trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **was buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **were cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **was netting** a big profit.
15. She **was taping** the package.
16. They **were being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **was tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **was approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **were dying** by the thousands.
20. They **were lying** on the grass when it rained.

Answers1:

1. His friend **had been car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **had been mopping** the floor.
3. School **had been shaping** my future.
4. They **had been playing** tennis.
5. She **had been setting up** for dinner.
6. He **had been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **had been vying** for her attention.
8. I **had been having** good feelings when he had been around.
9. He **had been having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **had been being** myself.
11. He **had been trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **had been buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **had been cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **had been netting** a big profit.
15. She **had been taping** the package.
16. They **had been being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **had been tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **had been approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **had been dying** by the thousands.

20. They **had been lying** on the grass when it rained.

THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS NEGATIVE

For negative statement in the past perfect continuous, “**not**” is added after “**had**”.

I **had been studying** algebra -> I **had not been studying** algebra.

He **had been making** important decisions -> He **had not been making** important decisions.

She **had been working** at the pharmacy -> She **had not been working** at the pharmacy.

The dog **had been napping** -> The dog **had not been napping**.

We **had been running** late -> We **had not been running** late.

They **had been having** second thoughts -> They **had not been having** second thoughts.

“**had not**” is often abbreviated as “**hadn’t**”

I **had not been studying** algebra -> I **hadn’t been studying** algebra

They **had not been having** second thoughts -> They **hadn’t been having** second thoughts.

Practice2: Change the sentences to past perfect continuous negative statements.

1. His friend **had been car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **had been mopping** the floor.
3. School **had been shaping** my future.
4. They **had been playing** tennis.
5. She **had been setting up** for dinner.
6. He **had been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **had been vying** for her attention.
8. I **had been having** good feelings when he had been around.
9. He **had been having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **had been being** myself.
11. He **had been trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **had been buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **had been cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **had been netting** a big profit.
15. She **had been taping** the package.
16. They **had been being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **had been tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **had been approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **had been dying** by the thousands.

20. They **had been lying** on the grass when it rained.

Answers2:

1. His friend **had not been car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **had not been mopping** the floor.
3. School **had not been shaping** my future.
4. They **had not been playing** tennis.
5. She **had not been setting up** for dinner.
6. He **had not been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **had not been vying** for her attention.
8. I **had not been having** good feelings when he had not been around.
9. He **had not been having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **had not been being** myself.
11. He **had not been trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **had not been buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **had not been cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **had not been netting** a big profit.
15. She **had not been taping** the package.
16. They **had not been being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **had not been tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **had not been approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **had not been dying** by the thousands.
20. They **had not been lying** on the grass when it rained.

Answers2: with abbreviations

1. His friend **hadn't been car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **hadn't been mopping** the floor.
3. School **hadn't been shaping** my future.
4. They **hadn't been playing** tennis.
5. She **hadn't been setting up** for dinner.
6. He **hadn't been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **hadn't been vying** for her attention.
8. I **hadn't been having** good feelings when he hadn't been around.
9. He **hadn't been having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **hadn't been being** myself.
11. He **hadn't been trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **hadn't been buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **hadn't been cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **hadn't been netting** a big profit.
15. She **hadn't been taping** the package.
16. They **hadn't been being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **hadn't been tapping** on his reserved energies.

18. She **hadn't been approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **hadn't been dying** by the thousands.
20. They **hadn't been lying** on the grass when it rained.

THE PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS

For questions with the past perfect continuous, "had" switches position with the **subject**.

Tom **had been doing** homework -> **Had** Tom **been doing** homework?

I **had been making** good of my promise -> **Had** I **been making** good of my promise?

She **had been working** on her project -> **Had** she **been working** on her project?

We **had been having** a great time -> **Had** we **been having** a great time?

They **had been exhibiting** their works -> **Had** they **been exhibiting** their works?

We **had been betting** on his success -> **Had** we **been betting** on his success?

Practice3: Change the sentences to past perfect continuous questions.

1. His friend **had been car-pooling** with him to work.
2. She **had been mopping** the floor.
3. School **had been shaping** my future.
4. They **had been playing** tennis.
5. She **had been setting up** for dinner.
6. He **had been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket.
7. Everyone **had been vying** for her attention.
8. I **had been having** good feelings when he had been around.
9. He **had been having** his parents over for dinner.
10. I **had been being** myself.
11. He **had been trimming** his beard.
12. The phone **had been buzzing** continuously.
13. Traveling expenses **had been cutting** into his earnings.
14. He **had been netting** a big profit.
15. She **had been taping** the package.
16. They **had been being** polite.
17. Uncle Bill **had been tapping** on his reserved energies.
18. She **had been approving** the way he behaved.
19. The bees **had been dying** by the thousands.
20. They **had been lying** on the grass when it rained.

Answer3:

1. **Had** his friend **been car-pooling** with him to work?
2. **Had** she **been mopping** the floor?
3. **Had** school **been shaping** my future?
4. **Had** they **been playing** tennis?
5. **Had** she **been setting up** for dinner?
6. **Had** he **been stocking up** shelves at the supermarket?
7. **Had** everyone **been vying** for her attention?
8. **Had** I **been having** good feelings when he Had around?
9. **Had** he **been having** his parents over for dinner?
10. **Had** I **been being** myself?
11. **Had** he **been trimming** his beard?
12. **Had** the phone **been buzzing** continuously?
13. **Had** traveling expenses **been cutting** into his earnings?
14. **Had** he **been netting** a big profit?
15. **Had** she **been taping** the package?
16. **Had** they **been being** polite?
17. **Had** uncle Bill **been tapping** on his reserved energies?
18. **Had** she **been approving** the way he behaved?
19. **Had** the bees **been dying** by the thousands?
20. **Had** they **been lying** on the grass when it rained?