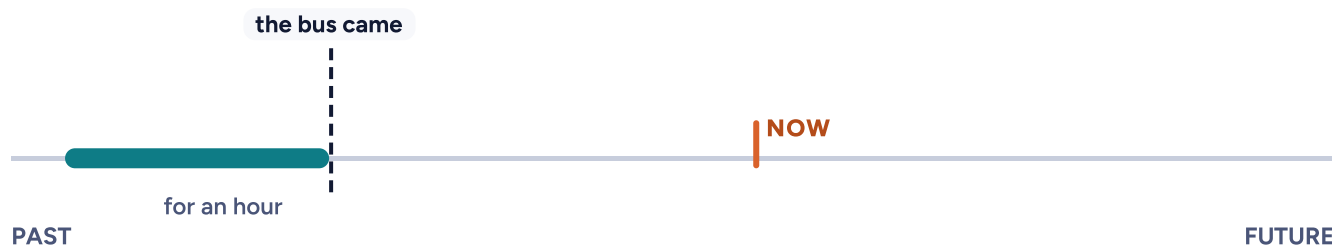


Past Perfect Continuous

Use the **Past Perfect Continuous** for an activity that had been going on up to a moment in the past, often to say how long or to explain a past situation: *She was tired because she had been working all day.* Form: **had been + -ing.**

I **had been waiting** for an hour when the bus came.



1. Choose the right answer Circle a or b.

- Her eyes were red. She _____.
a) has been crying b) had been crying
- We _____ for two hours when the guide arrived.
a) had been walking b) have been walking
- He _____ there for ten years before he retired.
a) was working b) had been working
- By noon I _____ three cups of coffee.
a) had drunk b) had been drinking
- How long _____ before you found a job?
a) had you been looking b) have you been looking

2. Correct the mistake

Each sentence has one mistake. Write the correct sentence.

1. I was waiting for an hour when the bus came.

2. She had been knowing him for years.

3. They had been finished the work.

3. Your turn

Write three sentences about your own life in the **Past Perfect Continuous**. Use one of these words in each.

for

since

all day

how long

before

when

by the time

See the rule move

The full lesson, with more pictures, examples and a quiz that checks your answers, is free at clarigram.app/tenses/past-perfect-continuous

Past Perfect Continuous

1. Choose the right answer

1. **b) had been crying** The red eyes are a past situation, so the activity before it takes had been + -ing.
2. **a) had been walking** For two hours up to a past moment (the guide arrived).
3. **b) had been working** For ten years measures time up to a past point.
4. **a) had drunk** A completed number (three cups) takes the Past Perfect simple.
5. **a) had you been looking** The search lasted up to a past moment: you found a job.

2. Correct the mistake

1. **I had been waiting for an hour when the bus came.** For an hour measures time up to a past moment, so it needs the perfect continuous.
2. **She had known him for years.** Know is a state verb, so it isn't used in the continuous.
3. **They had finished the work.** Had been + -ing is for an ongoing activity; had + participle is for a completed one.

3. Your turn

Answers will vary. Check that each sentence follows the rule on page 1, or paste them into Clarigram to have them checked.