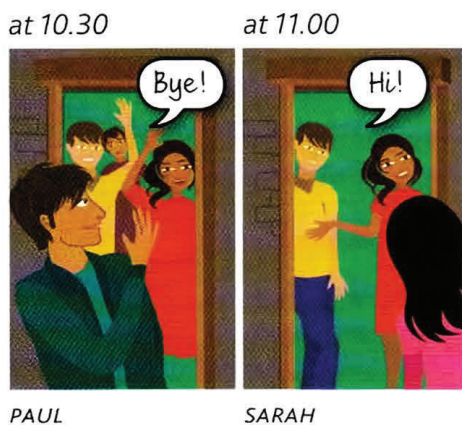


Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had** + *past participle* (**gone/seen/finished** etc.).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** ...):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

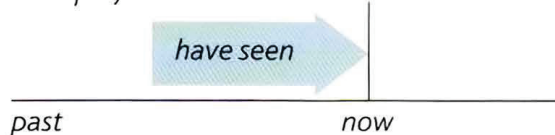
Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

B

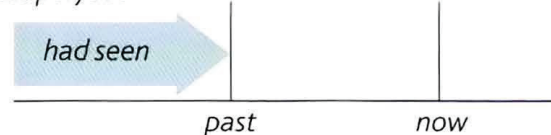
Compare the *present perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

Present perfect



- Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect



- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple* (**left, was** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had left, had been** etc.):

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned. She **was** at her mother's house.

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned. She **had been** at her mother's house.

Exercises

15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.
(she / go / out) *She had gone out.*
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.
(it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.
(the film / already / start)
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.
(she / just / have / breakfast)

15.2 For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.
(fly) *He'd never flown before.*
- 2 Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.
(hear) I before.
- 3 Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.
(play) He
- 4 Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.
(be there) We

15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night. (b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u> (c) We called the police. | } | We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So the police. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2 (a) Laura went out this morning. (b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u> (c) There was no answer. | } | I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but no answer. out. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3 (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago. (b) <u>I met him the same day.</u> (c) He looked very well. | } | I met Jim a few days ago. just holiday. very well. |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4 (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails. (b) She never replied to them. (c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u> (d) He was very surprised. | } | Yesterday Kevin from Sally. very surprised. lots of emails, but |

15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 1 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he had gone (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we (see) a car which (break) down, so we (stop) to help.

Past perfect continuous (I had been doing)

A

Study this example situation:

yesterday morning



Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining, but the ground was very wet.

It **had been raining**.

It was *not* raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had been** raining before.

Had been -ing is the *past perfect continuous*:

I/we/you/they he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	been	doing working playing etc.
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Some more examples:

- When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was untidy and one of them had a black eye. They'd **been fighting**.
- I was very tired when I got home. I'd **been working** hard all day.
- When I went to Madrid a few years ago, I stayed with a friend of mine. She **hadn't been living** there very long, but she knew the city very well.

B

You can say that something **had been happening** for a period of time before something else happened:

- We'd **been playing** tennis for about half an hour when it started to rain heavily.
- Paul went to the doctor last Friday. He **hadn't been feeling** well for some time.

C

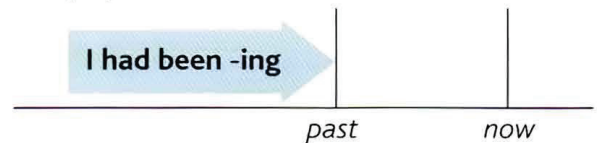
Compare **have been -ing** (*present perfect continuous*) and **had been -ing** (*past perfect continuous*):

Present perfect continuous



- I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before now*)
- James is out of breath. He **has been running**.

Past perfect continuous



- At last the bus came. I'd **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before the bus came*)
- James was out of breath. He **had been running**.

D

Compare **was -ing** (*past continuous*) and **had been -ing**:

- It **wasn't raining** when we went out. The sun **was shining**. But it **had been raining**, so the ground was wet.
- Katherine **was sitting** in an armchair resting. She was tired because she'd **been working** very hard.

E

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (*not had been knowing*)
- I was surprised when Lisa cut her hair. She'd **had** long hair since I first met her. (*not she'd been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

Exercises

16.1 Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets.

- I was very tired when I arrived home.
(I / work / hard all day) *I'd been working hard all day.*
- The two boys came into the house. They had a football and they were both very tired.
(they / play / football)
- I was disappointed when I had to cancel my holiday.
(I / look / forward to it)
- Ann woke up in the middle of the night. She was frightened and didn't know where she was.
(she / dream)
- When I got home, Mark was sitting in front of the TV. He had just turned it off.
(he / watch / a film)

16.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
We *had been playing for half an hour* when *it started to rain*.
- I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes I realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
I for 20 minutes when I
..... the wrong restaurant.
- Sarah got a job in factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
At the time the factory, Sarah
..... there for five years.
- I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly started shouting.
The orchestra when

This time make your own sentence:

- I began walking along the road. I
when

16.3 Put the verb into the most suitable form, past continuous (I was doing), past perfect (I had done) or past perfect continuous (I had been doing).

- It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours *were having* (have) a party.
- We were good friends. *We'd known* (we / know) each other for years.
- John and I went for a walk. I had difficulty keeping up with him because (he / walk) so fast.
- Sue was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. (she / run).
- When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full.
..... (they / eat).
- When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty, but their stomachs were full. (they / eat).
- James was on his hands and knees on the floor. (he / look) for his contact lens.
- When I arrived, Kate (wait) for me. She was annoyed because I was late and (she / wait) for a long time.
- I was sad when I sold my car. (I / have) it for a very long time.
- We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. (we / travel) for more than 24 hours.