

عنوان المحاضرة: Past Perfect
Continuous
المادة الدراسية: Grammar
المرحلة الدراسية: First level
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The Past Perfect Continuous Focusing on the "Action in Progress" in the Past

- **What is it?** A tense that shows an ongoing action in the past that continued up to, or stopped just before, another moment in the past.
- **How do we form it?** * **Subject + had + been + verb(-ing)**
- *Example:* I had been waiting / She had been studying / They had been playing.
- **The Core Focus:** It emphasizes the *duration* of the action or the *visible result* it left behind.

Use 1 – "How Long" Up to a Past Point

Duration before another past action.

- This tells us "how long" an action was happening up to a specific point in the past.
- It is the past equivalent of the Present Perfect Continuous.
- We usually use '**for + time**' or '**since**'.

Examples:

- She **had been working** at that company for a year when she met James.
- I'd **been walking** for hours when I finally found the house.
- We'd **been living** in Berlin for three months when we had to leave.
- They **had been waiting** for the train for forty minutes before it finally arrived.
- He felt confident because he **had been practicing** his speech all week.

- **Use 2 – The "Evidence" in the Past**
- **Finished just before another past event, leaving a visible result.**
- The action itself might be finished, but we use this tense because we could see, feel, or hear the *results* of that action at that time in the past.
- It explains *why* something looked or felt a certain way.

- **Examples:**
- The pavement was wet; it **had been raining**. (*The rain stopped, but the wet ground was the result*).
- The children **had been playing** and so the room was a mess!
- I'd **been working** before I saw you, and that's why I was really tired.
- His clothes were covered in paint because he **had been decorating** the kitchen.
- She was completely out of breath because she **had been running** to catch the bus.

Continuous vs. Simple (A Quick Note)

Action vs. Stative Verbs

- Remember, we generally do **not** use continuous tenses with *stative verbs*
- (verbs of state, possession, or feeling like *know, like, own, belong*).
- If you have a stative verb, you must fall back to the **Past Perfect Simple**,
- even if you are talking about duration!
- **Examples:**
- *Incorrect:* I had been knowing him for five years. ✗
- *Correct:* I **had known** him for five years. ✓

Quick Summary Review

When to use 'Had + Been + Verb-ing'

- 1.Duration:** To emphasize *how long* an action was happening before another past event.
- 2.Result/Evidence:** To explain the *cause* of a visible result in the past.
- 3.Active Verbs Only:** Use it for actions (running, working, waiting), not states (knowing, owning).