

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE

- Situations and states before the past.

We had lived next to the gym for a couple of months before I decided to join.

- Completed actions before a moment in the past.

I had already bought the computer game when I saw it was cheaper in another shop.

- Completed actions where the important thing is the result at a moment in the past.

We didn't feel like playing Scrabble because we had just finished a long game of Monopoly.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

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- Actions continuing up to a moment in the past.

When you saw us we had been running for six miles-and we still had a mile to go.

- Actions stopping just before a moment in the past.

Sarah looked tired because she had been exercising all morning.

Exercise1. Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets.

1. I had to have a break. I so long. (drive)
2. Before we parked our car we the ticket. (collect)
3. I arrived on Sunday. I at home for two days. (not be)
4. The roads were blocked in the morning. It all night. (snow)
5. They got to the beach after they for hours. (walk)
6. She called the police when she the light in the hall. (see)
7. His English was perfect. He it since he started school. (study)
8. I was really hungry. I anything since the morning. (not eat)
9. She didn't go to work because she her leg. (break)
10. As soon as Betty the door, the burglar alarm went off. (open)

Exercise 2. Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

1. After I _____ the letter, I _____ that I _____ the wrong address on it. (post, realise, write)

2. John asked me where I _____ the day before. (be)
3. At this time yesterday, we _____ for 6 km. (already walk)
4. When I _____ through the streets of Madrid, I _____ about the magnificent time I _____ there as a student. (walk, think, spend)
5. It was the first time that she _____ me to dinner. (invite)
6. As soon as the maid _____ scrubbing the kitchen floor, she _____ working in the garden. (finish, start)
7. We started to worry about Jimmy because we _____ him all afternoon. (call)
8. They _____ their way out of town before the sun _____. (already make, rise)
9. We _____ for two hours when we finally got to our hotel. (drive)
10. When I _____ home, I saw that the children _____. (arrive, leave)
11. While I _____ in the garden it _____ me that I _____ off the oven. (work, strike, not turn)
12. I _____ my best friend to the party, but he couldn't come because he _____ other plans. (invite, already make)
13. I _____ out of the window because I _____ I _____ some noises. (look, think, hear)
14. We _____ TV when we saw that a devastating earthquake _____ California. (watch, hit)
15. The police told me that someone _____ into our neighbour's house. (break)

Exercise 3 Mark the correct sentences with a tick. If a tense is not correct, underline it and write the correct form. _____

Example: Before that I had never been seeing a ghost.- HAD NEVER SEEN

1. We sold our new house after we had bought a new one.	
2. The road was blocked because a tree had been falling on it.	
3. The street was icy in the morning as it had frozen all night.	
4. I was full of energy because I had been having big lunch.	
5. Had you ever slept in a tent before your holiday in Italy?	
6. He'd been sleeping too long. That's why he was so morose!	

7. There was no egg left. How many eggs had you been cooking?	
8. I'd been calling Jane five times before she picked up the phone.	
9. We had repaired the car for an hour when John appeared.	
10. She had taught for 40 years by the time she retired.	
11. In 2016 I had gone to France for five years.	
12. I didn't give up even if I had been failing so many times.	

KEY

Exercise 1

- I had to have a break. I had been driving so long.*
- Before we parked our car we had collected the ticket.*
- I arrived on Sunday. I had not been at home for two days.*
- The roads were blocked in the morning. It had been snowing all night.*
- They got to the beach after they had been walking for hours.*
- She called the police when she had seen the light in the hall.*
- His English was perfect. He had been studying it since he started school.*
- I was really hungry. I had not eaten anything since the morning.*
- She didn't go to work because she had broken her leg.*
- As soon as Betty had opened the door, the burglar alarm went off.*

Exercise 2

Put the verbs in brackets into their correct forms.

- After I had posted the letter, I realised that I had written the wrong address on it*
- John asked me where I had been the day before.*
- At this time yesterday, we had already been walking for 6 km*
- When I was walking through the streets of Madrid, I thought about the magnificent time I had*

spent there as a student.

5. It was the first time that she had invited me to dinner.

6. As soon as the maid had finished scrubbing the kitchen floor, she started working in the garden.

7. We started to worry about Jimmy because we had been calling him all afternoon.

8. They had already made their way out of town before the sun rose.

9. We had been driving for two hours when we finally got to our hotel.

10. When I arrived home, I saw that the children had already left.

11. While I was working in the garden it struck me that I hadn't turned off the oven.

12. I invited my best friend to the party, but he couldn't come because he had already made other plans.

13. I looked out of the window because I thought I had heard some noises.

14. We were watching TV when we saw that a devastating earthquake had hit California.

15. The police told me that someone had broken into our neighbour's house.

<https://academic-englishuk.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Past-Perfect-simple-continuous-AE-UK.pdf>

EXERCISE 3

We sold our new house after we had bought a new one.	OK
The road was blocked because a tree had been falling on it..	HAD FALLEN
The street was icy in the morning as it had frozen all night	HAD BEEN FREEZING
I was full of energy because I had been having big lunch.	HAD HAD
Had you ever slept in a tent before your holiday in Italy?	OK
He'd been sleeping too long. That's why he was so morose!	OK
There was no egg left. How many eggs had you been cooking?	HAD YOU COOKED

I'd been calling Jane five times before she picked up the phone.	HAD CALLED
We had repaired the car for an hour when John appeared.	HAD BEEN REPAIRING
She had done yoga for 40 years by the time she retired.	HAD BEEN DOING
In 2016 I had gone to France for five years.	HAD BEEN GOING
I didn't give up even if I had been failing so many times.	HAD FAILED

<https://www.e-grammar.org/download/past-perfect-simple-continuous-exercise-5-key.pdf>