

015\_grammar\_intermediate  
Past Perfect Continuous



## PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Express a past action which started in the past and continued to happen after another action or time in the past.

Sara had been working here for two weeks when she had the accident.

Emphasize the duration of an activity in the past.

Richard needed a holiday because he had been working hard for six months.

Show the cause of a past action.

I had been travelling all night, so I was tired.

### Exercise 1

Match up the pictures with the sentences

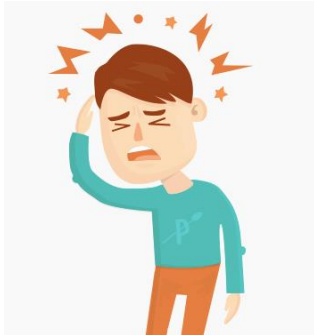
1. Emily is angry. She had been arguing with her parents for an hour.



2. Hannah felt sick. She had been eating chocolates all afternoon.



3. Allan had a headache. His baby sister had been crying for half an hour.



4. Emily was frightened. She had been watching a horror movie for half an hour.



5. Simon was confused. He had been trying to win the game for hours.



6. John was very tired. He had been working all night.



### Exercise 2

Match up two parts of the sentences.

1. She was tired because \_\_\_\_\_
2. They were hot because \_\_\_\_\_
3. The garden was flooded because \_\_\_\_\_
4. Did they crash because \_\_\_\_\_
5. When I arrived \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. they had been driving too fast?
  - b. She had been running.
  - c. It had been raining all night long.
  - d. They had already begun watching the movie.
  - e. They had been dancing.

### Exercise 3

Put the verbs into the correct form using Past Perfect Continuous.

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ (sleep) had been sleeping for 12 hours when he woke us up.
2. They \_\_\_\_\_ (wait)   at the station for 90 minutes when the train finally arrived.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (look for)   her ring for two hours and then we found it in the bathroom.

4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / walk) ☐ for a long time, when it suddenly began to rain.
5. How long \_\_\_\_\_ (learn / she) ☐ English before she went to London?
6. Frank Sinatra caught the flu because he \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) ☐ in the rain too long.
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ (drive) for ☐ less than an hour when he ran out of petrol.
8. They were very tired in the evening because they \_\_\_\_\_ (help) ☐ on the farm all day.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / work) all day; so I wasn't tired and went to the disco at night.
10. They \_\_\_\_\_ (cycle) all day so their legs were sore in the evening.

#### Exercise 4

1. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ about studying in Canada, but she got married and had to stay in Australia.
- A. had been thinking
  - B. had thinking
  - C. has been thinking
  - D. had been thought
2. It \_\_\_\_\_ continuously for two weeks, but it finally cleared up yesterday.
- A. had been raining
  - B. has been raining
  - C. had been rained
  - D. had raining
3. The football team \_\_\_\_\_ on a small pitch for a month; however, they moved to the Olympic Stadium last week and they are playing much better.
- A. had been trained
  - B. had been training
  - C. has been training
  - D. had been train
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ to call you last week. I was extremely busy last week and I forgot to call you. I'm sorry.
- A. had planning
  - B. had been planning
  - C. had been planned

D. has been planning

5. If you \_\_\_\_\_ trouble with your math class last semester, you should have asked for help. Now, it's too late.
- A. had been have
  - B. had been having
  - C. had been had
  - D. has been having
6. When the financial crisis hit, my father \_\_\_\_\_ for this company for 10 years. Unfortunately, he had to leave the company and start all over.
- A. had working
  - B. had been worked
  - C. has been working
  - D. had been working
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ for a year when we ran out of money and had to return home.
- A. had been traveled
  - B. had traveling
  - C. has been traveling
  - D. had been traveling
8. My professor \_\_\_\_\_ that class with a lot of enthusiasm; however, after his illness, he seemed to lose a lot of energy.
- A. had been teach
  - B. had been taught
  - C. had been teaching
  - D. has been teaching
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ to get into Penn State University for two years. I was finally accepted last year.
- A. has been trying
  - B. had been tried
  - C. had been trying
  - D. had been try
10. The students \_\_\_\_\_ good work, but, after the midterm, they seemed to lose interest in their studies.

- A. has been doing
- B. had been done
- C. had doing
- D. had been doing

### Exercise 5

Look at the pictures and tell what the kids had been doing before their mothers got home.





