

• Express an action that is the cause of another action taking place in the past.



She was tired because she had been skiing.



I was sleepy because I 'd been reading late.

Remember that the past perfect continuous will not be used if the main verb is a state verb.



Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense:

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1. I had been waiting (wait) in the office for more than two hours when the Boss finally arrived.
2. They had been talking (talk) for over an hour before the others members arrived.
3. had you been watching (you/watch) the match when I telephoned you?
4. She had been working (work) for that company for three years when it went out of businnes.
5. How long had you been waiting (you/wait) for John before he finally arrived?
6. What had you been doing (you/do) yesterday at 8 p.m.?
7. Helen hadn't been doing (not/do) anything special when we arrived.
8. I had been having (have) lunch when he entered the restaurant.

2 Read the sentences below and then write or say what people had done by the times indicated

0. (Example) They went to the cinema and ate 2 bags of popcorn before the film finished.

They had eaten 2 bags of popcorn by the time the film finished.

1. I wrote 7 reports before finishing work.

I had been writing 7 reports before finishing work

2. She drank a whole bottle of wine before going to bed.

she had been drinking a whole bottle of wine before going to bed

3. We ate 5 sandwiches before arriving in Scotland.

we had been eating 5 sandwiches before arriving in Scotland

- 4. He qualified as a teacher before getting married
he had been qualifying as a teacher before getting married
- 5. He stole more than 500,000 euros before the police caught him.
he had been stealing more than 500,000 euros before the police caught him
- 6. They manufactured more than 1,000,000 cars before the factory closed.
They manufacturing more than 1,000,000 cars before the factory closed
- 7. She wrote 95 books before dying.
she had been writing 95 books before dying
- 8. He visited France before finishing his classes
he had been visiting France before finishing his classes

3 Write the past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets:

- 1. Tom was sitting on the chair, out of breath. He had been running (run).
- 2. We had been walking (walk) along the road for about 20 minutes when a car stopped and the driver offered us a lift.
- 3. When I arrived, everyone was sitting around the table and talking. Their mouths were empty but their stomachs were full. They had been eating (eat).
- 4. When I arrived, Jessica was waiting for me. She was rather annoyed with me because I was late and she had been waiting (wait) for me for two hours.
- 5. I had been doing (do) my homework for two hours when my friend came.

