

1 They had been talking for over
an hour before Tony arrived

2 she had been working at that
company for three years when
it went out of business

3 How long had you been
waiting to get on the bus?

4 Mike wanted to sit down
because he had been standing

all day at work

5 James had been teaching at the university for more than a year before he left for Asia

6 How long had you been studying Turkish before you moved to Ankara?

7 I had not been studying Turkish very long

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



She was tired because she had been sking.



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 business. ✓
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 had been 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.

