

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:

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 (you/do) yesterday at 8 p.m.? ✓
7. Helen had not been doing (not/do) anything special when we arrived. ✓
8. I had been having (have) lunch when he entered the restaurant. ✓

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 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 eating 5 sandwiches before arriving in Scotland
had been

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
6. They manufactured more than 1,000,000 cars before the factory closed. the police caught him
They ^{had been} manufacturing more than 1,000,000 cars before
7. She wrote 95 books before dying. the factory closed
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.
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.

