

Mohamed Kheider University

English division: group 4

Past perfect continuous

Examples:

Our game of tennis was interrupted. We had ('d) been playing for about half an hour when it started to rain heavily.

Ken gave up smoking two years ago. He had ('d) been smoking for ten years.

The past perfect continuous has the following form: had (for all the persons) +been+ present participle (verb plus ing).

We can use it to say that something had been happening for a period of time before something else happened. The past perfect continuous emphasizes the duration of a single event.

The following verbs are not used in the past perfect continuous, like, love, hate, want, prefer , mean, need , prefer, know, realize, suppose understand, believe, remember, belong, contain, consist, depend, seem.

Exercises:

Read the situations and complete the sentences.

1- We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began to play, it started to rain.

We had been playing for half an hour when it started to rain.

2-I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes, I realized that I was in the wrong restaurant.

I; for 20 minutes when I.....

3-Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.

At the time the factory..., Sarah.....there for five years.

4- I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began to play. After about ten minutes, a man in the audience suddenly began to shout.

The orchestra.....when.....

5-This time make your own sentence.

I began working along the road.....

Choose the correct alternative (this is an email)

Subject: International Student Conference

Hi,

Thought you'd like to know that the conference was very successful. The talks were/ had been really interesting and all the speakers had prepared/ prepared their material very thoroughly. Everyone agreed we should do the same next year.

However there were some problems with the conference center. When we arrive/had arrived, we discovered/ had discovered that the manager reserved/ had reserved the wrong room for us. This meant that we didn't have. / hadn't had enough space. Unfortunately, he couldn't let us have the larger room because he gave/ had given it to another group, which was even bigger than ours.

He also misunderstood/ had misunderstood the form explaining what lunch options we wanted / had wanted. In fact, we suspected/ had suspected that he lost/ had lost it .I recommend not using that venue again.

There are mistakes in all these sentences Correct the sentences. Use the simple past or past perfect.

1-I was pleased to see my friends from university at the conference last week since we didn't see each other since graduation.

2-By the time we reached the stadium, the match ended and the spectators were leaving.

3-At the end of the meal, he found he couldn't pay his share of the bill because he didn't bring his wallet.

4-We were pleased that Gary was having his laptop with him, but we were less pleased when we discovered that he hadn't charged the battery.

5-When I came out of the cinema, I had found that a thief had taken my phone from my bag.

6-At first the authorities thought the athlete had been using drugs, but they soon realized the lab mixed the results.

7- When my cousin came into the room, I didn't recognize him because I didn't see since he was a child.

8-We couldn't find anything central to stay when we arrived in Rome, so we had decided to book a hotel room the next time.