Past Perfect Continuous

The past perfect continuous verb tense, sometimes called the past perfect progressive, is the present participle form of a verb used with had been.

**Past tense:** I ate.

**Past perfect:** I was eating.

**Past perfect continuous tense:** I had been eating.

The past perfect continuous tense is used for showing an action that was ongoing or happening continually in the past and ended. It can also show a cause and effect.

**Part I:** Circle the past perfect continuous verb tense in each of the following sentences.

1. Tom **had been learning** the piano before his grandmother bought him one.

2. They **had been playing** upstairs when the smoke alarm went off.

3. Ella **had been waiting** for an hour before she decided to leave.

4. I was tired because I **had been running** errands all day.

5. Since she **had been studying** hard, Amanda made a good grade on the test.

**Part II:** Fill in the blank with the past perfect continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Grace  ______________________ (work) as a clerk for two years when she was promoted to manager.

2. I  ______________________ (help) my mother with the dishes before Garrett called me.

3. The dog  ______________________ (bark) all night when the neighbors finally called the police.

4. Because there was no rain, the vegetable garden  ______________________ (die) slowly.

5. Liam was in trouble because he  ______________________ (talk) in class.

Example 1: She **had been looking** for a red dress but bought a blue one instead.

Example 2: Zack could throw the ball farther because he **had been practicing**.
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**Part II:** Fill in the blank with the past perfect continuous form of the verb in parentheses.

1. Grace **had been working** as a clerk for two years when she was promoted to manager.
2. I **had been helping** my mother with the dishes before Garrett called me.
3. The dog **had been barking** all night when the neighbors finally called the police.
4. Because there was no rain, the vegetable garden **had been dying** (die) slowly.
5. Liam was in trouble because he **had been talking** (talk) in class.

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Example 1: She had been looking for a red dress but bought a blue one instead.

Example 2: Zack could throw the ball farther because he had been practicing.