

What is Past Perfect Continuous?

Worksheet

Past perfect continuous is formed with had been + verb-ing, showing an action that had been in progress before another past action interrupted or followed it.

Questions

1. Choose the correct sentence:

- A) She had study for an hour.
- B) She had been studying for an hour.
- C) She has been studying for an hour.
- D) She was studying for an hour.

2. What does PPC emphasize?

- A) Completed action
- B) Duration and continuity of past action
- C) Future plan
- D) Habitual past action

3. Fill: By the time he arrived, I _____ for two hours.

- A) am waiting
- B) was waiting
- C) had been waiting
- D) have been waiting

4. Which sentence uses PPC correctly?

- A) They had been played football all afternoon.
- B) They had played football all afternoon.
- C) They have been playing football all afternoon.
- D) They was playing football all afternoon.

5. She had been studying for 3 hours when her friend called.

6. They had been working on the project before the deadline was announced.

7. How long had you been waiting when the bus finally arrived?

8. Define: What is past perfect continuous?

9. Define: When do we use PPC?

10. Define: How do you form it?

Answer Key

1. B) She had been studying for an hour. — Past perfect continuous uses 'had been' + -ing. The other options are wrong tenses.
2. B) Duration and continuity of past action — PPC highlights how long an action had been going on before a past event.
3. C) had been waiting — 'Had been waiting' (PPC) shows the waiting action had been ongoing before he arrived.
4. A) They had been played football all afternoon. — 'Had been played' is incorrect; it should be 'had been playing' (no past participle 'played' form in PPC).
5. The action 'studying' had already been ongoing (past perfect continuous: had been studying) Then another past action 'called' interrupted it So: had been + verb-ing to show the earlier ongoing action
6. First action (past): had been working (continuous, duration emphasized) Second action (past): deadline was announced (simple past) Order: ongoing action → then interruption
7. Question: How long had you been waiting? (duration of ongoing past action) Answer: An ongoing past action (waiting) was interrupted by another (bus arrived) Structure: had been + -ing to ask about duration
8. An action that had been ongoing before a specific past event; formed with had been + -ing.
9. To show an action was in progress before another past action, or to emphasize duration.
10. had + been + verb-ing (e.g., had been studying, had been working).

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