

Past Perfect Continuous Vs Past Continuous



If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday," we normally choose the **Past Continuous** rather than the **Past Perfect Continuous**: He was tired because he **was exercising** so hard.

The Past Perfect Continuous **emphasizes** a duration of time before something in the past: He was tired because he **had been exercising** so hard.

Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense:

1. I _____ (**wait**) in the office for more than two hours when the Boss finally arrived.
2. They _____ (**talk**) for over an hour before the other members arrived.
3. _____ (**you/watch**) the match when I telephoned you?
4. She _____ (**work**) for that company for three years when it went out of business.
5. How long _____ (**you/wait**) for John before he finally arrived?
6. Mike was longing to sit down because he _____ (**stand**) all day at work.
7. What _____ (**you/do**) yesterday at 8 p.m.?
8. David _____ (**teach**) at the international school for more than a year before he left for France.
9. How long _____ (**you/study**) Italian before you moved there?
10. The footballers were tired because they _____ (**play**) for two hours.
11. Helen _____ (**not/do**) anything special when we arrived.
12. Sam put on a lot of weight because he _____ (**eat**) too much.
13. I _____ (**have**) lunch when he entered the restaurant.
14. Florence failed the final test because she _____ (**not/revise**) enough.
15. While I _____ (**walk**) home last Monday I saw a terrible car accident.



KEY

1. I **had been waiting** in the office for more than two hours when the Boss finally arrived.
2. They **had been talking** for over an hour before the other members arrived.
3. **Were you watching** the match when I telephoned you?
4. She **had been working** for that company for three years when it went out of business.
5. How long **had you been waiting** for John before he finally arrived?
6. Mike was longing to sit down because he **had been standing** all day at work.
7. What **were you doing** yesterday at 8 p.m.?
8. David **had been teaching** at the international school for more than a year before he left for France.
9. How long **had you been studying** Italian before you moved there?
10. The footballers were tired because they **had been playing** for two hours.
11. Helen **wasn't doing** anything special when we arrived.
12. Sam put on a lot of weight because he **had been eating** too much.
13. I **was having** lunch when he entered the restaurant.
14. Florence failed the final test because she **had not revised** enough.
15. While I was **walking** home last Monday I saw a terrible car accident.