PRATIK DERS

Past Perfect Continuous

Ders kategorisi: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Use had been plus verb-ing for an activity that continued up to a point in the past, often explaining a past result. Covers duration with for and since, and how it differs from the plain past perfect.

Past Perfect Continuous

The past perfect continuous is built from **had been + verb-ing**. It describes an activity that **had been going on for some time** before another past moment — and very often it explains why that past situation was as it was.

Learning objectives

- Form the tense correctly for all subjects.
- Express duration before a past reference point.
- Use it to explain the cause of a past result.
- Distinguish it from the past perfect.

Meaning and usage

Use	Example
Duration before a past point	*She **had been working** there for ten years before she resigned.*
Cause of a past situation	*He was exhausted because he **had been running**.*
Visible past evidence	*The streets were wet — it **had been raining**.*
Repeated activity before a past point	*They **had been arguing** all week.*
Interrupted long activity	*I **had been waiting** for an hour when she finally arrived.*

The form

Form	Structure	Example
Affirmative	had been + -ing	*I **had been waiting**.*
Negative	hadn't been + -ing	*She **hadn't been sleeping** well.*
Question	Had + subject + been + -ing	***Had** you **been waiting** long?*
Short answers	Yes/No + subject + had(n't)	*Yes, I had. / No, I hadn't.*

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The form is identical for every subject, and the **-ing** spelling rules are the usual ones.

The timeline

1. The activity starts.
2. The activity continues — this is what the tense highlights.
3. A past reference point arrives.
4. Now.

*I **had been studying** for three hours **when** she called.* — the studying filled the time up to the call.

For, since and how long

- *He had been driving **for** six hours.* — a length of time
- *She had been living there **since** 2010.* — a starting point
- ***How long** had you been waiting?* — the natural question

A comparison with the past perfect

Past perfect	Past perfect continuous
I had written three reports. — how many	*I had been writing all day.* — how long
She had painted the room. — finished	*She had been painting the room.* — that's why she had paint on her hands
result	activity and duration
quantity is possible	quantity is not possible

Stative verbs

As always, stative verbs avoid the continuous. Use the past perfect instead: *I **had known** him for years*, not *had been knowing*.

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
I had been wait for an hour.	**I had been waiting for an hour.**	the *-ing* form is required
She had been knowing him.	**She had known him.**	stative verb
I had been writing three letters.	**I had written three letters.**	a quantity needs the perfect
Did you had been waiting?	**Had you been waiting?**	no *did* here
He had being working.	**He had been working.**	*been*, not *being*

Learning tips

1. Look for a past result that needs explaining — that is this tense's natural home.
2. If the sentence answers *How long ... before ...?*, this is usually the form.

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3. Compare it directly with the present perfect continuous; the only change is *have → had*.

Summary checklist

- Is the structure **had been + -ing**?
- Is there a clear past reference point?
- Am I stressing duration rather than a finished result?
- Is the verb dynamic, not stative?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Kjo kohë ndërtohet me **had been** plus foljen me **-ing**. Forma është e njëjtë për të gjitha vetat.

Ajo tregon një veprimtari që **kishte vazhduar për një kohë** përpara një çasti tjetër të së shkuarës. Shumë shpesh ajo shpjegon **shkakun** e një gjendjeje të shkuar: *He was exhausted because he had been running.*

Përdorimet kryesore janë tri: kohëzgjatje para një pike në të shkuarën; shkak i një rezultati të shkuar; dhe veprimtari e përsëritur para asaj pike. Ajo shoqërohet natyrshëm me *for*, *since* dhe pyetjen *How long ...?*

Ashtu si te format e tjera të vazhduara, foljet e gjendjes nuk e marrin këtë formë; me to përdoret koha më se e kryer e thjeshtë.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Shqipja **nuk ka një formë të veçantë** për këtë kuptim. Ajo e shpreh me të pakryerën ose me më se të kryerën, të shoqëruara me një shprehje kohëzgjatjeje si *prej* ose *që nga*.

Anglisht	Shqip
She had been working there for ten years.	Ajo **punonte** atje **prej** dhjetë vjetësh.
He was tired because he had been running.	Ai ishte i lodhur, sepse **kishte vrapuar**.
The streets were wet — it had been raining.	Rrugët ishin të lagura — **kishte rënë** shi.
I had been waiting for an hour when she arrived.	**Prisja prej** një ore kur ajo mbërriti.

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Mungesa e formës.** Aty ku anglishtja ka një kohë të veçantë, shqipja mbështetet te shprehjet e kohës. Prandaj përkthimi nuk e tregon dallimin dhe forma duhet mësuar sipas kuptimit, jo sipas shqipes.
- **Sasia.** Anglishtja nuk e lejon një numër gjërash me këtë formë: thuhet *I had written three letters*, jo *I had been writing three letters*. Shqipja nuk e ka këtë kufizim.
- **Foljet e gjendjes.** Në shqip *e njihja prej vitesh* është krejt e natyrshme; në anglisht duhet *I had known her for years*.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I had been wait for an hour.	**I had been waiting for an hour.**	kërkohet forma me *-ing*

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Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
She had been knowing him.	**She had known him.**	folje gjendjeje
I had been writing three letters.	**I had written three letters.**	sasia kërkon formën e thjeshtë
He had being working.	**He had been working.**	*been*, jo *being*

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