PRAKTISCHE LEKTION

Past Perfect vs Past Perfect Continuous

Lektionskategorie: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

> Compare a completed earlier action with an activity that had been continuing. Learn to match quantity with the perfect and duration with the continuous, using side-by-side examples and simple tests.

Past Perfect vs Past Perfect Continuous

Both forms describe something before another past moment. The difference repeats the pattern you already know from the present perfect pair: the **past perfect** focuses on a *completed action or a quantity*; the **past perfect continuous** focuses on the *activity and how long it lasted*.

Learning objectives

- Choose between the two forms with confidence.
- Match *How many?* with the perfect and *How long?* with the continuous.
- Recognise where only one form is possible.

Side-by-side comparison

	Past perfect	Past perfect continuous
Form	had + past participle	had been + verb-ing
Focus	completion, result, quantity	duration, process, cause
Question	**How many?**	**How long?**
Finished?	yes, before the past point	possibly still going at that point
Typical words	already, just, by the time, never, three times	for, since, all day, how long

Contrasting pairs

Past perfect	Past perfect continuous	Difference
She had written three emails before lunch.	*She had been writing emails all morning.*	quantity vs duration
They had built the house by 2010.	*They had been building it for two years.*	completion vs process
He had read the report.	*He had been reading the report.*	finished vs perhaps unfinished
I had cleaned the kitchen.	*I had been cleaning — that's why I was tired.*	result vs cause
She had run a marathon.	*She had been running for two hours.*	achievement vs time spent

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Quantity and duration

A number of completed items goes with the **past perfect**; a period of time goes with the **continuous**.

- *By midnight he **had answered** forty emails.*
- *By midnight he **had been answering** emails for six hours.*

He had been answering forty emails is not natural English — a quantity does not fit the continuous.

When only one form works

Situation	Use	Example
Stative verb	past perfect	*I had known her for years.*
A number of completed things	past perfect	*She had visited six countries.*
Completion verbs (finish, arrive)	past perfect	*The train had arrived.*
Explaining visible past evidence	past perfect continuous	*His hands were dirty; he had been gardening.*
Emphasising a long wait	past perfect continuous	*I had been waiting for hours.*

A short narrative using both

*When the manager finally arrived, the team **had been waiting** for over an hour. Two people **had already left**, and the others **had drunk** all the coffee. She apologised: her train **had been delayed**, and she **had been trying** to call the office all morning.*

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
I had been writing three letters.	**I had written three letters.**	quantity needs the perfect
How long had you waited?	**How long had you been waiting?**	duration needs the continuous
She had been finishing the report.	**She had finished the report.**	*finish* is a completion verb
He had been having a car.	**He had had a car.**	possession is stative
They had being working.	**They had been working.**	*been*, not *being*

Learning tips

1. Ask the question first: *How many?* or *How long?*
2. If the sentence explains why something was true at a past moment, reach for the continuous.
3. The rule is identical to the present perfect pair — learn one and you know both.

Summary checklist

- Quantity or completed result → past perfect.
- Duration, process or cause → past perfect continuous.

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- Stative verb → past perfect only.
- Is there a clear past reference point?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Të dyja format flasin për diçka që ndodhi **para** një çasti tjetër të së shkuarës. Dallimi përsërit pikërisht atë që keni parë te format e tashme: e **thjeshta** shikon veprimin e përfunduar, rezultatin ose sasinë; e **vazhduara** shikon veprimtarinë dhe kohëzgjatjen.

Prova më e shpejtë është po ajo: nëse fjalia u përgjigjet fjalëve **How many?**, përdoret *had* + *pjesore*; nëse u përgjigjet fjalëve **How long?**, përdoret *had been* + *-ing*. Një numër i caktuar gjërash nuk shkon kurrë me formën e vazhduar.

Vetëm forma e thjeshtë përdoret me foljet e gjendjes, me sasi dhe me foljet e përfundimit si *finish* dhe *arrive*. Vetëm e vazhduara përdoret kur shpjegohet shkaku i një gjendjeje të shkuar ose kur theksohet një pritje e gjatë.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Shqipja e ka **vetëm njërën** nga këto dy forma: më se të kryerën. Dallimin e shpreh me fjalë — numërorë për sasinë dhe shprehje kohore për kohëzgjatjen.

Anglisht	Shqip	Fokusi
She had written three emails.	Ajo **kishte shkruar tri** email-e.	sasia
She had been writing all morning.	Ajo **kishte shkruar gjithë mëngjesin**.	kohëzgjatja
They had built the house by 2010.	Ata **e kishin ndërtuar** shtëpinë deri në vitin 2010.	përfundimi
They had been building it for two years.	Ata **e ndërtonin prej** dy vjetësh.	procesi
I had cleaned the kitchen.	**E kisha pastruar** kuzhinën.	rezultati
I had been cleaning — that's why I was tired.	**Kisha pastruar** — prandaj isha i lodhur.	shkaku

Ku ndryshojnë dy gjuhët

- **Një formë kundrejt dyve.** Përkthimi shqip shpesh është i njëjtë për të dyja, prandaj ai nuk mund të përdoret si udhërrëfyes. Zgjedhja duhet bërë sipas fokusit.
- **Sasia.** Ky është dallimi më i prekshëm: një numër në fjali e detyron formën e thjeshtë në anglisht, ndërsa shqipja nuk ndryshon asgjë.
- **Shkaku.** Kur shqipja shton *prandaj* ose *sepse*, anglishtja shpesh kërkon formën e vazhduar.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
I had been writing three letters.	**I had written three letters.**	sasia
How long had you waited?	**How long had you been waiting?**	kohëzgjatja

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Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
She had been finishing the report.	**She had finished the report.**	folje përfundimi
He had been having a car.	**He had had a car.**	zotërimi është gjendje

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