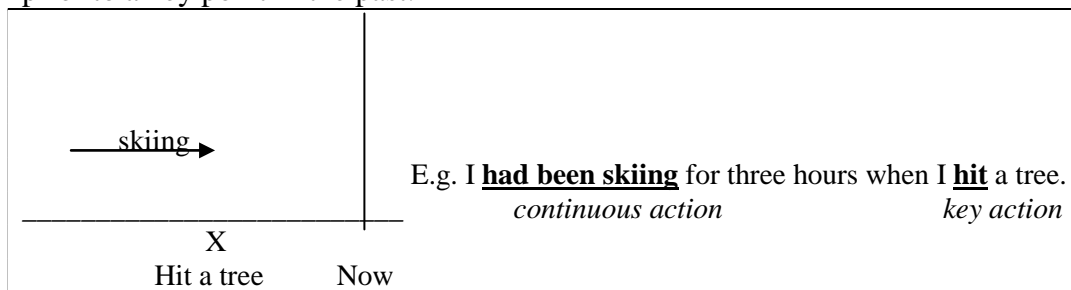


# Progressive Constructions: Past Perfect Progressive

**FORM:** HAD + BEEN + VERB + ING

We ***had been talking*** on the phone for only two minutes when the connection was cut.

**USE:** The **past perfect progressive** is used to emphasize continuous action in the past, prior to a key point in the past.



There are three situations when we choose to use the past perfect progressive.

- The continuous action stops when the key action occurs.  
*I ***had been skiing*** for three hours when I *hit* a tree. (You stopped skiing after hitting the tree).*
- The continuous activity continues after the key action.  
*I ***had been working*** for six hours before I noticed that no one else had come to work.*
- The continuous action has recently finished, and there is still evidence of it.  
*She ***had been sleeping***. Her eyes were still puffy.*

Complete the sentences with either **PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS**, **PAST PERFECT** or **SIMPLE PAST** for the verb given in brackets. There may be more than one choice, so be prepared to justify your answer.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (study) very hard, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (fail) the exam.
2. Marina \_\_\_\_\_ (cry). She \_\_\_\_\_ (receive) bad news from home.
3. The witness \_\_\_\_\_ (recall) that the thief \_\_\_\_\_ (wear) a black hat when he \_\_\_\_\_ (rob) the bank.

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4. We \_\_\_\_\_ (hitch-hike) for three hours when a car finally \_\_\_\_\_ (stop).
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in Canada for six months when my parents \_\_\_\_\_ (visit) me.
6. He \_\_\_\_\_ (work) as a doctor in Africa when he \_\_\_\_\_ (become) ill.
7. We \_\_\_\_\_ (have) coffee in the hotel when the fire alarm \_\_\_\_\_ (sounded).
8. The chef \_\_\_\_\_ (cook) dinner when the food \_\_\_\_\_ (catch) fire.
9. The military \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) for an attack when the bomb \_\_\_\_\_ (explode).
10. I \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to open a glass jar when I \_\_\_\_\_ (drop) it.

*Complete the following paragraph with the correct form of the verb given in brackets. There may be more than one choice, so be prepared to justify your answer.*

The birthday I remember the most is my fifth birthday. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (made) me a blue velvet dress. As soon as \_\_\_\_\_ (woke up) that day I \_\_\_\_\_ (put) on my dress. Then I \_\_\_\_\_ (race) down into the kitchen. My mother quickly \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) something behind her back. But I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) it. She \_\_\_\_\_ (wrap) a small white box. I \_\_\_\_\_ (pretend) not to notice. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (braid) my hair and \_\_\_\_\_ (tie) it with a matching blue velvet ribbon. We all \_\_\_\_\_ (sit down) for breakfast. From behind her back my mother \_\_\_\_\_ (bring) a small box, wrapped in bright blue paper. I eagerly \_\_\_\_\_ (grab) it with my small hands and \_\_\_\_\_ (rip off) the paper. Inside the box \_\_\_\_\_ (is) a beautiful silver necklace with a silver heart charm on it. It \_\_\_\_\_ (be) beautiful. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) me that my grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ (send) it from England. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ (keep) it a secret for two weeks! She \_\_\_\_\_ (hide) it in her own jewellery box. I \_\_\_\_\_ (look) for weeks for my presents, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) it.