

Past Perfect Continuous

The past perfect continuous tense is used to talk about the first of two past events (the most past event). Normally, this event has happened for a long period of time and continued right up until the second event. It can also be used to explain a cause and effect relationship between two past events.

| Subject | Have Been | Present Participle |
|-----------|-----------|--------------------|
| I | had been | walking |
| You | had been | walking |
| he/she/it | had been | walking |
| we | had been | walking |
| they | had been | walking |

In the affirmative, we use the *SuHaBEP* structure: subject, verb to have (had), verb to be (been), present participle. We can also contract had with the subject.

| Subject | Have Been (-) | Present Participle |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------|
| I | hadn't been | walking |
| You | hadn't been | walking |
| he/she/it | hadn't been | walking |
| we | hadn't been | walking |
| they | hadn't been | walking |

In the negative, we use the same *SuHaBEP* structure, but the verb to have is used in the negative form. We can use the long form (had been) or the contracted form (hadn't) in the negative.

| Question | Have | Subject | Been | Present Participle |
|----------|------|-----------|------|--------------------|
| Where | had | I | been | walking? |
| | had | You | been | walking? |
| | had | he/she/it | been | walking? |
| | had | we | been | walking? |
| | had | they | been | walking? |

There are two question forms in the past perfect continuous. QuHaSuBEP, if you use a question word, and HaSuBEP, without a question word.

| Have | Subject | Been | Present Participle |
|------|-----------|------|--------------------|
| Had | I | been | walking? |
| Had | You | been | walking? |
| Had | he/she/it | been | walking? |
| Had | we | been | walking? |
| Had | they | been | walking? |

The short response is yes or no, plus the subject and then the verb to have.

| Response | Subject | Have |
|----------|-----------|------|
| Yes | I | had |
| | you | had |
| | he/she/it | had |
| | we | had |
| | they | had |

| Response | Subject | Have |
|----------|-----------|--------|
| No | I | hadn't |
| | you | hadn't |
| | he/she/it | hadn't |
| | we | hadn't |
| | they | hadn't |

PRESENT PARTICIPLE

- Normal rule (+ING): *drink* → *drinking*
- CVC rule (double last consonant +ING): *cut* → *cutting*
- Exceptions: last letter W, Y or stress on first syllable (+ING only) *draw* → *drawing*
- E rule (eliminate E +ING): *drive* → *driving*
- Exceptions: EE Ending (+ING only) *see* → *seeing*
- IE rule (eliminate IE + Y +ING): *die* → *dying*
- C rule (+ K + ING): *picnic* → *picnicking*

KEYWORDS

Before → with second event
For (+time) → with first event
Since (+time) → with first event
When → with second event

Pronunciation can be /ɪŋ/ /ɪn/ or /ən/. The ING is never stressed, always the infinitive part.