



Past Perfect v Past Perfect Continuous Interactive Worksheet

In order to complete this worksheet, you should watch the series of grammar videos about the past perfect v past perfect continuous tenses in English. You should complete this worksheet at the same time as watching the videos.

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Video: Past Perfect v Past Perfect Continuous Use

EXERCISE A: Complete the table below. In column 1, you can see the uses of the past perfect tense. In column 2, you can see the uses of the past perfect continuous tense. Underneath each use, write an example sentence that demonstrates this use.

Past Perfect	Past Perfect Continuous
First of two events in the past E.g. When we arrived at the cinema, the film had already started.	Started and finished in the past E.g. I had been learning English for 3 years before I took my exam.
Stative Verbs E.g. I had known her for a long time before she died.	Cause of past event E.g. We were tired because we had been studying all day.



Video: Past Perfect v Past Perfect Continuous Common Mistakes

EXERCISE A: Below is a set of incorrect sentences. Identify the mistake and write this in the space provided, then rewrite this sentence correctly in the second space provided.

- 1) They had been building the house when the earthquake hit. (If the house was already finished when the earthquake hit)

MISTAKE: If the first of two past events was finished before the second past event, we must use the past perfect tense.

CORRECTION: They had built the house when the earthquake hit.

*Note that if the first event was still happening when the second event happened in the past, then we need the past perfect continuous tense (they had been building the house when the earthquake hit).

- 2) I had been knowing her for a long time.

MISTAKE: Stative verbs must be used with the past perfect tense.

CORRECTION: They had known her for a long time.

- 3) They had been starting the film before I got home.

MISTAKE: Momentary actions cannot be used in continuous forms, because they don't happen for a long period of time.

CORRECTION: They had started the film before I got home.