



Past Perfect Continuous Keywords

There are lots of keywords that can be used in the past perfect continuous tense. Let's take a look!



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

When is used with the past simple, most recent part of the sentence.

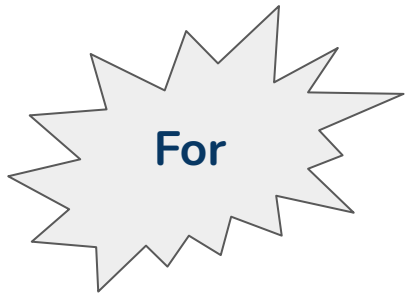
We had been going out for 5 years when he asked me to marry him.



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

Since must be followed by a fixed past time phrase. It's used with the first event.

We had been reading that book since December, but we finished it last night.



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

For must be followed by a countable time phrase. It's used with the first event.

He had been practising for 5 hours before he did his audition.



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

Before is used with the past simple, most recent part of the sentence.

Her sale numbers had been improving before she got fired.



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

After is used with the past perfect continuous, the first event.

She started some work after she had been relaxing all day.