



Past Perfect Continuous Common Mistakes

Past Perfect Continuous

There are three common mistakes that English learners make in the past perfect continuous tense. Let's review them, so you can avoid these mistakes!



We'd been knowing each other for a long time before she passed away.

Common Mistakes

We'd been knowing each other for a long time before she passed away. 

Know is a stative verb. Stative verbs cannot be used in the past perfect continuous tense. Instead, they must use the past perfect tense.

Common Mistakes

We'd been knowing each other for a long time before she passed away

We'd known each other for a long time before she passed away.





We'd been working together since 4
years.

Common Mistakes

We'd been working together since 4
years.



Since must be followed by a fixed time (date, year, month, event). If it can be counted, we require *for* instead.

Common Mistakes

We'd been working together since 4
years.



We'd been working together
for 4 years.



She had swimming before she went
to school.

Common Mistakes

She had swimming before she went
to school.



We must use all auxiliary parts of the tense.
Subject + had been + present participle.

Common Mistakes

She had swimming before she went
to school.



She had been swimming
before she went to school.