# Past Perfect Continuous – Worksheet 1 - ANSWERS

## Exercise 1: Cloze Task – Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous (Answers)

1. By the time we got to the airport, the plane **had taken off**. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "taking off" was a completed action before arrival.)*
2. She was exhausted because she **had been working** all day. ✅ *(Past Perfect Continuous – an ongoing action leading up to exhaustion.)*
3. He didn't recognize her because she **had changed** a lot since the last time they met. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "change" is a completed action, not continuous.)*
4. They **had been waiting** for over an hour before the bus arrived. ✅ *(Past Perfect Continuous – "waiting" was an ongoing action before another past event.)*
5. I was really hungry because I **had not eaten** all day. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "not eating" is a completed state, not an ongoing action.)*
6. When we arrived at the party, Tom **had already left**. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "leaving" was a completed action before arrival.)*
7. He failed the exam because he **had not studied** enough. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "studying" was completed before failing the exam.)*
8. We **had been driving** for six hours when we finally stopped for a break. ✅ *(Past Perfect Continuous – "driving" was ongoing before stopping.)*
9. The road was wet because it **had been raining** all morning. ✅ *(Past Perfect Continuous – "raining" was ongoing before the past event.)*
10. By the time I found my keys, we **had missed** the train. ✅ *(Past Perfect – "missing" was a completed action before another past event.)*

## Exercise 2: Error Correction – Past Perfect vs. Past Perfect Continuous (Answers in Bold)

1. She **had known** him for years before they got married. ✅ *(Correction: "had been knowing" → "had known"; "know" is a stative verb and does not take continuous forms.)*
2. When I arrived, they **had left** already. ✅ *(Correction: "had been left" → "had left"; Past Perfect is needed for a completed action.)*
3. He was tired because he **had been running** five kilometers that morning. ✅ *(Correct as is! Past Perfect Continuous expresses an ongoing action before another past event.)*
4. I was happy because I **had won** the competition. ✅ *(Correction: "had been winning" → "had won"; "winning" is a completed achievement, not a continuous action.)*

5. She was upset because they **had told** her the bad news. ✅ *(Correction: "had been telling" → "had told"; "tell" refers to a single completed event, not continuous.)*

6. We were late because the car **had broken down** on the way. ✅ *(Correction: "had been breaking down" → "had broken down"; "break down" is a completed action, not continuous.)*

7. When I arrived at the hotel, I found out that they **had lost** my reservation. ✅ *(Correction: "had been losing" → "had lost"; "losing" is not an ongoing action but a completed event.)*

8. They **had been living / had lived** in Spain for ten years before they moved to France. ✅ *(Both tenses work! "Had lived" suggests a completed period, while "had been living" emphasizes the ongoing nature of the stay.)*

9. He **had been working / had worked** at the same company before he got promoted. ✅ *(Both tenses work! "Had worked" refers to a completed action, while "had been working" emphasizes the duration of the work.)*

10. I was wet because I **had been walking** in the rain for over an hour. ✅ *(Correct as is! Past Perfect Continuous emphasizes the ongoing nature of "walking" before another past event.)*

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## Key Takeaways

✅ **Past Perfect (had + past participle)**

✓ Used for **completed actions before another past event** (*By the time we arrived, the train had left.*)

✓ Often used with **"by the time," "before," "already," "never," etc.** (*She had never travelled abroad before moving to Spain.*)

✓ Used for **single completed past events** (*He had won the match before celebrating.*)

✅ **Past Perfect Continuous (had been + verb-ing)**

✓ Used for **ongoing past actions leading up to another past event** (*She was tired because she had been working all day.*)

✓ Used with **"for," "since," "how long," etc.** (*They had been waiting for an hour before the bus came.*)

✓ **Cannot** be used with stative verbs (*know, have, like, believe*), so we use **Past Perfect** instead (*She had known him for years*).