

Past Perfect & Past Perfect Continuous Tense Exercises

► **Practice 14. The simple past and the past perfect.** (Charts 2-6 and 3-5)

Underline each event. Write “1” over the event that happened first and “2” over the event that happened second.

1. We had driven only two miles when we got a flat tire.
2. Alan told me that he had written a book.
3. By the time we arrived at the airport, the plane had already left.
4. The dog had eaten the entire roast before anyone knew it was gone.
5. We didn't stand in line for tickets because we had already bought them by mail.
6. Carl played the guitar so well because he had studied with a famous guitarist.
7. By the time the movie ended, everyone had fallen asleep.
8. After the professor had corrected the third paper, he was exhausted from writing comments on the students' papers.
9. I had just placed an order at the store for a new camera when I found a cheaper one online.

► **Practice 15. The past perfect.** (Chart 3-5)

Complete the sentences. Write the correct form of the past perfect.

1. Yesterday, John got 100% on a math exam. Before yesterday, he (*get, not*) _____ 100%.
2. Last week, Sonya met her fiancé's parents. Before that, she (*meet, not*) _____ them.
3. Today, Dan used a camera phone. Before today, he (*take, not*) _____ pictures with one.
4. A few days ago, Bakir cooked a frozen dinner. Prior to that, he (*eat, not*) _____ a frozen dinner.
5. Last week, I had to have a tooth pulled. Until then, I (*have, not*) _____ any problems with my teeth.

► **Practice 16. The simple past and the past perfect.** (Charts 2-7 and 3-5)

Complete the sentences with the simple past or past perfect form of the verb. Write the letter of the correct verb.

1. By the time Jason arrived to help, we ____ moving everything.
a. already finished b. had already finished
2. The apartment was hot when I got home, so I ____ the air conditioner.
a. turned on b. had turned on
3. The farmer's barn caught on fire some time during the night. By the time the firefighters arrived, the building ____ to the ground. It was a total loss.
a. burned b. had burned
4. The dinner I had at that restaurant was expensive! Until then, I ____ so much on one meal.
a. never spent b. had never spent
5. When I saw that Mike was having trouble, I ____ him. He was very appreciative.
a. helped b. had helped
6. My wife and I went to Disneyland when we visited Los Angeles last spring. Prior to that time, we ____ such a big amusement park. It was a lot of fun.
a. never visited b. had never visited
7. Last year I experienced how tedious long plane trips can be. I ____ on airplanes for fairly long distances before, but never as long as when I went to Australia in June.
a. traveled b. had traveled

► **Practice 17. The simple past and the past perfect.** (Charts 2-6 and 3-5)

Write the simple past or the past perfect of the verbs in parentheses. In some cases, both forms are correct.

1. Yesterday I (*go*) went to my daughter's dance recital. I (*be, never*) had never been to a dance recital before. I (*take, not*) didn't take dancing lessons when I (*be*) was a child.

2. Last night, I (*eat*) _____ four servings of food at the “all-you-can-eat” special dinner at The Village Restaurant. Until that time, I (*eat, never*) _____ so much in one meal. I’ve felt miserable all day today.
3. A: I (*see*) _____ you in the school play last night. You (*do*) _____ a terrific acting job. (*you, act, ever*) _____ in a play before this one?
B: Yes. I (*start*) _____ acting when I was in elementary school.

► **Practice 18. The present perfect progressive and the past perfect progressive.** (Charts 3-4 and 3-7)

Circle the correct verb.

1. I’m studying English. I (*have been studying* / *had been studying*) English for several years now.
2. I came from Malaysia to live in New Zealand in 2002. I (*have been studying* / *had been studying*) English for three years before that.
3. Shhh! I want to see the end of this TV show! I (*have been waiting* / *had been waiting*) to find out who the murderer is.
4. Laura finally called me last night. I hadn’t heard from her in four months. I (*have been waiting* / *had been waiting*) for that call for a long time!
5. Before Ada became a veterinarian last year, she (*has been working* / *had been working*) as a veterinarian’s assistant while she was in school.
6. Li is going to quit his job. He (*has been working* / *had been working*) too many hours for too little money in this job. He is probably going to hand in his resignation next week.

► **Practice 19. The present perfect progressive and the past perfect progressive.** (Charts 3-4 and 3-7)

Complete the sentences. Write the present perfect progressive or the past perfect progressive form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. Anna (*listen*) had been listening to loud rock music when her friends arrived, but she turned it off so all of them could study together. When they finished, she turned it back on, and now they (*dance*) have been dancing and (*sing*) singing for two hours.
2. We (*wait*) _____ for Ali for the last two hours, but he still hasn’t arrived.
3. We (*wait*) _____ for Ali for over three hours before he finally arrived yesterday.
4. Oscar (*train*) _____ for the Olympics for the last three years and wants to make the national team next year.
5. The marathon runner (*run*) _____ for almost two hours when he collapsed to the pavement. He received immediate medical attention.

6. Tom had a hard time finding a job. He (*try*) _____ to get a new job for six months before he finally found a position at a local community college. Now he has a two-year contract. He (*teach*) _____ there for only a few weeks, but he likes his new job very much.
7. Dr. Sato (*perform*) _____ specialized surgery since she began working at the university hospital ten years ago. She still does many operations each year, but now her work is so famous that she travels all over the world lecturing to other surgeons on her technique.
8. The Acme Construction Company is having problems. They (*work*) _____ on a new office building for the last seven months, and everything seems to be going wrong. Earlier, they stopped work on a smaller structure that they (*build*) _____ so they could take on this job. Now both projects are in jeopardy.

► **Practice 20. Chapter review.**

There is one verb error in each item. Correct the error.

1. *Citizen Kane* is a great classic movie. I've been seeing it ten times.
2. *War and Peace* is a long novel. I'm reading it for two months, and I am still not finished with it!
3. Our guests have left yesterday.
4. We were studying all night. Let's take a break now.
5. Let's not leave yet. I'd been having such a wonderful time at this party.
6. By the time I got home, the rest of the family has eaten.
7. I was late for my nine o'clock class, so I had run all the way from my dorm to my class.
8. Mrs. Wang isn't in the hospital anymore. She had left early this morning.
9. I was born on February 29th in 1960, a leap year. February 29th occurs only once every four years. So by the time the 21st century began, I celebrated only ten birthdays!
10. A: Are you still on the telephone? Are you holding on for someone?
B: Yes, I am. I am still holding for the technical help department. I am holding for more than half an hour!

PRACTICE 14, p. 33

1. We had driven only two miles = 1
we got a flat tire = 2
2. Alan told me = 2
he had written a book = 1
3. we arrived at the airport = 2
the plane had already left = 1
4. The dog had eaten the entire roast = 1
anyone knew it was gone = 2

5. We didn't stand in line for tickets = 2
we had already bought them by mail = 1
6. Carl played the guitar so well = 2
he had studied with a famous guitarist = 1
7. the movie ended = 2
everyone had fallen asleep = 1
8. the professor had corrected the third paper = 1
he was exhausted from writing comments on the student's papers = 2
9. I had just placed an order at the store for a new camera = 1
I found a cheaper one online = 2

PRACTICE 15, p. 34

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|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. had not gotten | 4. had not eaten |
| 2. had not met | 5. had not had |
| 3. had not taken | |

PRACTICE 16, p. 34

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. b. had already finished | 5. a. helped |
| 2. a. turned on | 6. b. had never visited |
| 3. b. had burned | 7. b. had traveled |
| 4. b. had never spent | |

PRACTICE 17, p. 34

1. went . . . had never been . . . didn't take . . . was
2. ate . . . had never eaten
3. A: saw . . . did . . . Had you ever acted
B: started

PRACTICE 18, p. 35

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|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. have been studying | 4. had been waiting |
| 2. had been studying | 5. had been working |
| 3. have been waiting | 6. has been working |

PRACTICE 19, p. 35

1. had been listening . . . have been dancing . . . singing
2. have been waiting
3. had been waiting
4. has been training
5. had been running
6. had been trying . . . has been teaching
7. has been performing
8. have been working . . . had been building

PRACTICE 20, p. 36

1. I've **seen** it ten times.
2. I've **been** reading it . . .
3. Our guests **left** . . .
4. We **have been** studying . . .
5. I've been having . . .
6. . . . **had** eaten.
7. . . . , so I **ran** . . .
8. She **left** . . .
9. . . . , I **had** celebrated . . .
10. B: . . . I **have been** holding for more than half an hour!