

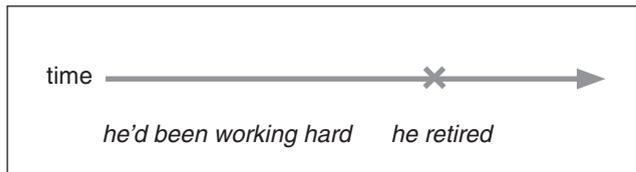
He'd been working hard all his life. He'd had a lot of different jobs. He'd worked as a truck driver, a builder and a car mechanic, but now it was time to retire. He'd always wanted to travel, so he'd bought himself a motorbike and now he and his dog were going to travel around the world!

## Presentation

### Past perfect continuous

Use the past perfect continuous to talk about an action that was in progress before a given time in the past:

*He had been working hard all his life, but now it was time to retire.*



It is possible that the action (working hard) finished before he retired, or at that point in time. It is also possible that it continued: he had been working hard all his life, and he had no intention of stopping, even after he'd retired.

To form the past perfect continuous use:  
*had + been + verb + -ing*

### Affirmative and negative

I/You/He/She/It/ We/They	'd/had/ hadn't	been	working hard.
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### Questions and answers

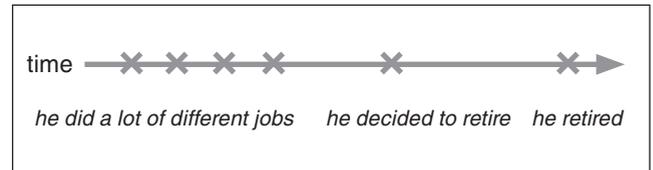
Had	I/you/he/she/it/ we/they	been	working hard?
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Yes,	I/you/he/she/it/we/they	had.
No,		hadn't.

### Past perfect continuous or past perfect simple?

Use the past perfect simple to talk about:

- single, complete events: *He'd worked as a truck driver. He'd bought a bike.*
- repeated actions when we give the number of times the action is repeated: *He'd done a lot of different jobs in his lifetime.*



Use the past perfect continuous to talk about how long an action, or series of actions, was in progress:

*He had been working hard all his life.*

*He'd been riding his bike for five hours without stopping.*

You don't usually use stative verbs in the past perfect continuous.

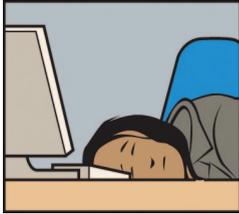
Say *I had known him for years.* (don't say *I had been knowing him for years.*)

See Unit 3: Stative verbs in the continuous

See page 235: Summary of past perfect simple and past perfect continuous

**1** Look at the pictures and complete the sentences using the past perfect continuous of the verbs in the box.

cry not listen not live work



- 1 She was exhausted. She had been working all night.



- 3 The baby ..... all night. It was six o'clock and he hadn't had any sleep.



- 2 He had no idea what the answer was. He ..... to the teacher.



- 4 She ..... there very long, but she already felt totally at home.

**2** Look at the pictures in exercise 1 and complete the questions using the past perfect continuous.

- 1 How long .....? All night.  
 2 ..... to the teacher? No, he hadn't.  
 3 What ..... all night? Crying!  
 4 How long ..... there? Not very long.

**3** Choose the correct form of the verbs to complete the story.

- 1 He'd never (fallen) / *been falling* in love before. She was his first love.  
 2 They'd *gone* / *been going* out together for a couple of months.  
 3 Then she'd *started* / *been starting* making excuses so as not to see him.  
 4 She'd *met* / *been meeting* another man at a party a few weeks earlier.  
 5 She'd *seen* / *been seeing* him for a few weeks.  
 6 He hadn't *realised* / *been realising* what was happening.  
 7 Then one day, he'd *seen* / *been seeing* the two of them walking down the street hand in hand.  
 8 And he understood that she'd *found* / *been finding* a new boyfriend.

**4** Complete the text using the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

We <sup>1</sup> ..... (work) for the same company for a couple of months. I <sup>2</sup> ..... (see) her in the distance and I <sup>3</sup> ..... (notice) how attractive she was, but we <sup>4</sup> ..... (never/speak). Then, while we <sup>5</sup> ..... (do) a training course together, we finally got to know each other. We <sup>6</sup> ..... (have) a drink with the other people on the course at the end of the first day, and we <sup>7</sup> ..... (all/talk) about how difficult it was. I <sup>8</sup> ..... (not notice) that she was standing just behind me. I laughed at one of the jokes, stepped back and spilt her drink down her dress! I <sup>9</sup> ..... (never/feel) so embarrassed in my life. But she was really nice about it. I bought her another drink and we got talking. She told me she <sup>10</sup> ..... (just/buy) a house on my street and that she <sup>11</sup> ..... (spend) her weekends painting and decorating. I offered to help her. That's how it all started!