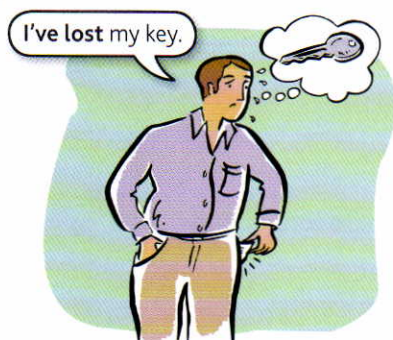


Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	lost
	done
	been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost/done/written etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- ☐ (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result **now**:

- ☐ 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it **now**)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it **now**)
- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out **now**)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is **now**?)

C Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has** it **stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive break fall go up grow improve ~~lose~~

- Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
- Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster.
- Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2.
- Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.
- Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.
- This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it.
- The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12.

Tom has lost his key.
 Lisa
 The bus fare
 Her English
 Dan
 The letter
 The

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. She's to the shop to get a newspaper.
- Tom has out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

- A**
- Would you like something to eat?
 - Do you know where Julia is?
 - What time is David leaving?
 - What's in the newspaper today?
 - Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?
 - Are your friends here yet?
 - What does Tim think about your plan?

- B**
- No, thanks. I've just had lunch.
 (I / just / have / lunch)
 Yes,
 (I / just / see / her)

 (he / already / leave)
 I don't know.
 (I / not / read / it yet)
 No,
 (she / already / see / the film)
 Yes,
 (they / just / arrive)

 (we / not / tell / him yet)

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'
 You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'
 You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful.
 Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A

It has been raining

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It **has been raining**.Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you	have	(= I've etc.)	been	doing waiting playing etc.
he/she/it	has	(= he's etc.)		

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with *now*:

- ☐ You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (= you're out of breath *now*)
- ☐ Paul is very tired. **He's been working** very hard. (= he's tired *now*)
- ☐ Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have you been doing?**
- ☐ **I've been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you everywhere.

B

It has been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?**It **has been raining** for two hours.

We use the present perfect continuous in this way especially with **how long**, **for ...** and **since ...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- ☐ **How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- ☐ Tim is still watching TV. **He's been watching** TV **all day**.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- ☐ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

- ☐ Silvia is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing** **since she was eight**.
- ☐ Every morning they meet in the same cafe. **They've been going** there **for years**.

C

Compare **I am doing** (see Unit 1) and **I have been doing**:

I am doing
present continuous

now




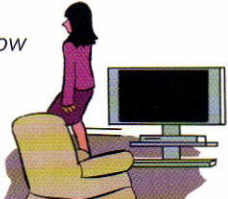




- ☐ Don't disturb me now. **I'm working**.
- ☐ We need an umbrella. **It's raining**.
- ☐ Hurry up! **We're waiting**.

I have been doing
present perfect continuous

now

- ☐ **I've been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. **It's been raining**.
- ☐ **We've been waiting** for an hour.

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

<p>1</p> <p>earlier</p> 	<p>now</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>earlier</p> 	<p>now</p> 
<p>They <u>'ve been shopping.</u></p>		<p>She</p>	
<p>3</p> <p>earlier</p> 	<p>now</p> 	<p>4</p> <p>earlier</p> 	<p>now</p> 
<p>They</p>		<p>He</p>	

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?)
- You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?)
- A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?)
- A friend tells you about his job – he sells mobile phones. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / sell / mobile phones?)

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I since December.
- Jessica is working in a supermarket. She started working there on 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
- Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- Hello, Tom. (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
- Why (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- Linda is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
- (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, (he / work).'
- Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.

Present perfect continuous and simple
(I have been doing and I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.
She **has been painting** her bedroom.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



Her bedroom was green. Now it is yellow.
She **has painted** her bedroom.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- ☐ My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** my bike.
- ☐ Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.
- ☐ It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since we last met?
- ☐ Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- ☐ My bike is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.
- ☐ Somebody **has eaten** all the chocolates. The box is empty.
- ☐ Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- ☐ **Have you ever played** tennis?

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- ☐ How long **have you been reading** that book?
- ☐ Lisa is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- ☐ They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much, how many* or *how many times*:

- ☐ How much of that book **have you read**?
- ☐ Lisa is writing emails. She's **sent** lots of emails this morning.
- ☐ They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (*not I've been knowing*)
- ☐ How long **have you had** that camera? (*not have you been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous:

- ☐ I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

10.1 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

- Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
He has been reading for two hours. (read)
He has read 53 pages so far. (read)
- Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her trip three months ago.
She for three months. (travel)
..... six countries so far. (visit)
- Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he won the national championship again – for the fourth time.
..... the national championship four times. (win)
..... since he was ten. (play)
- When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.
They films since they left college. (make)
..... five films since they left college. (make)

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(wait / long?) Have
- You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(catch / any fish?)
- Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?)
- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?)
- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?)
(how long / write / books?)
- A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:
(how long / save?)
(how much money / save?)

10.3 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (I have done) or continuous (I have been doing).

- Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?
- Look! (somebody / break) that window.
- You look tired. (you / work) hard?
- '..... (you / ever / work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'
- 'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where (she / go)?'
- My brother is an actor. (he / appear) in several films.
- 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. (I / not / wait) long.'
- 'Is it still raining?' 'No, (it / stop).'
- (I / lose) my phone. (you / see) it anywhere?
- (I / read) the book you lent me, but (I / not / finish) it yet. It's very interesting.
- (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.
- This is a very old book. (I / have) it since I was a child.

How long have you (been) ... ?

A Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (*present*)

but **How long have they been** married? (*present perfect*)
(*not* How long are they married?)

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

(*not* They are married for 20 years)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- ☐ Paul is in hospital.
- but He's **been** in hospital **since Monday**. (= He **has** been ...)
(*not* Paul is in hospital since Monday)
- ☐ Do you **know** each other well?
- but Have you **known** each other **for a long time**?
(*not* Do you know)
- ☐ She's **waiting** for somebody.
- but She's **been waiting** all morning.
- ☐ Do they **have** a car?
- but How long have they **had** their car?

present
he is
do you know
she is waiting

present perfect
he has been
have you known
she has been waiting

past

now

B I have known/had/lived etc. is the *present perfect simple*.

I have been learning / been waiting / been doing etc. is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- ☐ I've **been learning** English **for six months**.
- ☐ It's **been raining** **since lunchtime**.
- ☐ Richard **has been doing** the same job **for 20 years**.
- ☐ 'How long have you **been driving**?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ How long **have** you **known** Jane? (*not* have you been knowing)
- ☐ I've **had** a pain in my stomach all day. (*not* I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For **have**, see Unit 17.

C You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- ☐ Julia **has been living** / **has lived** here for a long time.
- ☐ How long **have** you **been working** / **have you worked** here?

But use the simple (I've lived / I've done etc.) with **always**:

- ☐ I've **always lived** in the country. (*not* always been living)

D We say 'I haven't done something **since/for** ...' (*present perfect simple*):

- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **since Monday**. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- ☐ Sarah **hasn't phoned** for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- Ben is a friend of mine. I know him very well.
- Ben is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time.
- Sarah and Adam are married since July.
- The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- I like your house. How long are you living there?
- Gary is working in a shop for the last few months.
- I don't know Tom well. We've only met a few times.
- I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.
- That's a very old bike. How long do you have it?

OK
I've known him

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?
- You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / teach / English?)
- You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:
(how long / know / Katherine?)
- Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- Tom always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- A friend of yours is having guitar lessons. You ask him:
(how long / have / guitar lessons?)
- You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(always / live / in Chicago?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

- A**
- Paul is in hospital, isn't he?
 - Do you see Ann very often?
 - Is Amy married?
 - Are you waiting for me?
 - You know Mel, don't you?
 - Do you still play tennis?
 - Is Joe watching TV?
 - Do you watch TV a lot?
 - Do you have a headache?
 - Adrian is never ill, is he?
 - Are you feeling ill?
 - Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she?
 - Do you go to the cinema a lot?
 - Would you like to go to New York one day?

- B**
- Yes, he has been in hospital since Monday.
 - No, I haven't seen her for three months.
 - Yes, she is married for ten years.
 - Yes, I am for the last half hour.
 - Yes, we know each other a long time.
 - No, I don't play tennis for years.
 - Yes, he is watching TV all evening.
 - No, I don't watch TV for ages.
 - Yes, I have a headache all morning.
 - No, he isn't ill since I've known him.
 - Yes, I am ill all day.
 - Yes, she lives in Berlin for the last few years.
 - No, I don't go to the cinema for ages.
 - Yes, I would like to go to New York.
(use **always** / **want**)

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:

Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.**Has** he **lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.**Did** he **lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.He **lost** his key (*past simple*)but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- ☐ They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- ☐ It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- ☐ 'I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- ☐ 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- ☐ I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- ☐ Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
(*not* has been ... has written)
- ☐ My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:


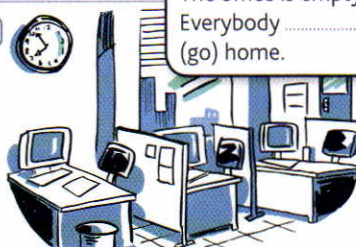


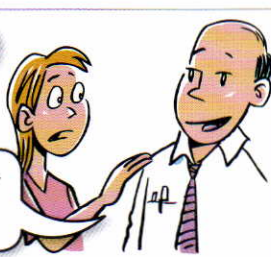
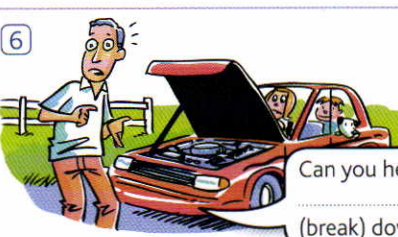
- ☐ Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- ☐ Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- ☐ A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- ☐ A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

- 13.1** Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1</p>  <p>I can't get in. I <u>'ve lost</u> (lose) my key.</p>	<p>2</p>  <p>The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.</p>
<p>3</p>  <p>I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).</p>	<p>4</p>  <p>HELEN</p> <p>Helen (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.</p>
<p>5</p>  <p>Are you OK?</p> <p>Yes, I (have) a headache, but I'm fine now.</p>	<p>6</p>  <p>Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p>

- 13.2** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1 Did you hear about Sue? <u>She's given</u> up her job. | OK |
| 2 My mother <u>has grown</u> up in Italy. | grew |
| 3 How many poems <u>has William Shakespeare written</u> ? | |
| 4 Ow! <u>I've cut</u> my finger. It's bleeding. | |
| 5 Drugs <u>have become</u> a big problem everywhere. | |
| 6 Who <u>has invented</u> paper? | |
| 7 Where <u>have you been born</u> ? | |
| 8 Ellie isn't at home. <u>She's gone</u> shopping. | |
| 9 Albert Einstein <u>has been</u> the scientist who
<u>has developed</u> the theory of relativity. | |

- 13.3** Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

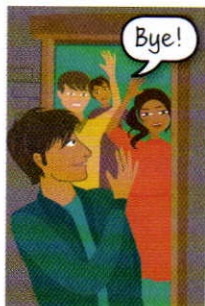
- It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- I studied German at school, but most of it now. (I / forget)
- The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- What do you think of my English? Do you think ? (it / improve)
- A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
- for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- Where's my bike? outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- Quick! We need to call an ambulance. an accident. (there / be)
- A: Have you heard about Ben? his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How ? (that / happen)
A: off a ladder. (he / fall)

Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:

at 10.30



PAUL

at 11.00



SARAH

Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
----------------------------	------------	-------------------------------	--

The past perfect simple is **had** + *past participle* (**gone/seen/finished** etc.).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- ☐ Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** ...):

- ☐ When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

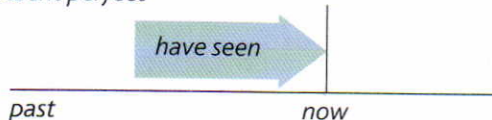
Some more examples:

- ☐ When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
☐ Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
☐ At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
☐ The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
 or ... He **had** never **flown** before.

B

Compare the *present perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

Present perfect



- ☐ Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
☐ We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
☐ The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect



- ☐ I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
☐ We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
☐ The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple* (**left, was** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had left, had been** etc.):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
 B: Yes, but he left soon afterwards.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kate wasn't at home when I phoned.
 She was at her mother's house.</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/> A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
 B: No, he had already left.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Kate had just got home when I phoned.
 She had been at her mother's house.</p> |
|--|---|

Exercises

15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.
(she / go / out) She had gone out.
- You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.
(it / change / a lot)
- I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.
(the film / already / start)
- It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.
(she / just / have / breakfast)

15.2 For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.
(fly) He'd never flown before.
- Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.
(hear) I before.
- Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.
(play) He
- Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.
(be there) We

15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night. | } We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So the police. |
| (b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u> | |
| (c) We called the police. | |
- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| (a) Laura went out this morning. | } I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but no answer. out. |
| (b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u> | |
| (c) There was no answer. | |
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago. | } I met Jim a few days ago. holiday. very well. |
| (b) <u>I met him the same day.</u> | |
| (c) He looked very well. | |
- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails. | } Yesterday Kevin from Sally. very surprised. lots of emails, but |
| (b) She never replied to them. | |
| (c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u> | |
| (d) He was very surprised. | |

15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he had gone (go) home.'
- I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
- The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
- Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
- We were driving along the road when we (see) a car which (break) down, so we (stop) to help.

Past perfect continuous (I had been doing)

A Study this example situation:

yesterday morning



Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining, but the ground was very wet.

It **had been raining**.

It was *not* raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had been** raining before.

Had been -ing is the *past perfect continuous*:

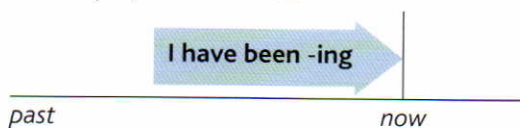
I/we/you/they he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	been	doing working playing etc.
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Some more examples:

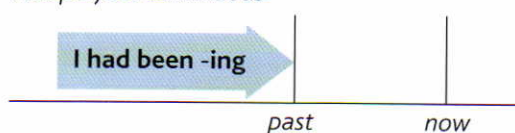
- ☐ When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was untidy and one of them had a black eye. They'd **been fighting**.
- ☐ I was very tired when I got home. I'd **been working** hard all day.
- ☐ When I went to Madrid a few years ago, I stayed with a friend of mine. She **hadn't been living** there very long, but she knew the city very well.

B You can say that something **had been happening** for a period of time before something else happened:

- ☐ We'd **been playing** tennis for about half an hour when it started to rain heavily.
- ☐ Paul went to the doctor last Friday. He **hadn't been feeling** well for some time.

C Compare **have been -ing** (*present perfect continuous*) and **had been -ing** (*past perfect continuous*):*Present perfect continuous*

- ☐ I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before now*)
- ☐ James is out of breath. He **has been running**.

Past perfect continuous

- ☐ At last the bus came. I'd **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before the bus came*)
- ☐ James was out of breath. He **had been running**.

D Compare **was -ing** (*past continuous*) and **had been -ing**:

- ☐ It **wasn't raining** when we went out. The sun **was shining**. But it **had been raining**, so the ground was wet.
- ☐ Katherine **was sitting** in an armchair resting. She was tired because she'd **been working** very hard.

E Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (*not had been knowing*)
- ☐ I was surprised when Lisa cut her hair. She'd **had** long hair since I first met her. (*not she'd been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

Exercises

16.1 Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets.

- I was very tired when I arrived home.
(I / work / hard all day) I'd been working hard all day.
- The two boys came into the house. They had a football and they were both very tired.
(they / play / football) _____
- I was disappointed when I had to cancel my holiday.
(I / look / forward to it) _____
- Ann woke up in the middle of the night. She was frightened and didn't know where she was.
(she / dream) _____
- When I got home, Mark was sitting in front of the TV. He had just turned it off.
(he / watch / a film) _____

16.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
We had been playing for half an hour when it started to rain.
- I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes I realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
I _____ for 20 minutes when I _____ the wrong restaurant.
- Sarah got a job in factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
At the time the factory _____, Sarah _____ there for five years.
- I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly started shouting.
The orchestra _____ when _____

This time make your own sentence:

- I began walking along the road. I _____ when _____

16.3 Put the verb into the most suitable form, past continuous (I was doing), past perfect (I had done) or past perfect continuous (I had been doing).

- It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours were having (have) a party.
- We were good friends. We'd known (we / know) each other for years.
- John and I went for a walk. I had difficulty keeping up with him because _____ (he / walk) so fast.
- Sue was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. _____ (she / run).
- When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full.
_____ (they / eat).
- When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty, but their stomachs were full. _____ (they / eat).
- James was on his hands and knees on the floor. _____ (he / look) for his contact lens.
- When I arrived, Kate _____ (wait) for me. She was annoyed because I was late and _____ (she / wait) for a long time.
- I was sad when I sold my car. _____ (I / have) it for a very long time.
- We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. _____ (we / travel) for more than 24 hours.