

B2 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1 Lesson 2

In this practice you will learn

B2 ENGLISH CHAPTER 1 Lesson 2 <i>Grammar: Tenses (Conti...) (Unit 5-8)</i>		<i>Your Score</i>
❖ Unit 5: Past perfect and past simple		/
❖ Unit 6: Present perfect continuous and present perfect		/
❖ Unit 7: Past perfect continuous, past perfect and past continuous		/
❖ Unit 8: Present and past time: review		/

Past perfect and past simple

A

When we give an account of a sequence of past events we usually put these events in chronological order using the past simple. If we want to refer to an event out of order – that is, an event which happened *before* the last event in the sequence we have written or spoken about – we can use the past perfect. Study the use of the past perfect and past simple in the text on the right:

Reminder → A6–A8, A14–A15

Order of events:	1 gave present 2 wrote email 3 made mistake 4 realised mistake
Order events are mentioned:	1 wrote email 2 had given present (<i>out of order</i>) 3 realised mistake 4 had made mistake (<i>out of order</i>)

I **wrote** Clara an email to thank her for the present she **had given** me for my birthday last week. But as soon as I pressed the 'send' button, I **realised** that I **had made** a mistake and sent it to her sister instead.

B

When we understand that we are talking about events before another past event, we don't have to continue using the past perfect:

- ☐ We **bought** a new car last month. We'd **driven** my parents' old car for ages, but it **started** (*or had started*) to fall apart. We **put** (*or had put*) a new engine in it, but that **didn't solve** (*or hadn't solved*) the problems we were having.

C

If the order of past events is clear from the context (for example, if time expressions make the order clear) we can often use either the past perfect or the past simple:

- ☐ After Ivan **had finished** reading, he put out the light. (*or ... Ivan finished ...*)
- ☐ The two leaders agreed to meet, even though *earlier* talks **had failed** to reach an agreement. (*or ... talks failed ...*)

D

The past perfect is often used in reporting what was originally said or thought in the present perfect or past simple (see also Unit 35):

Talking about a past event	Reporting this past event
☐ 'I have met him before.'	☐ I was sure that I had met him before. (<i>not ... I met him ...</i>)
☐ 'The village hasn't changed much.'	☐ I found that the village hadn't changed much. (<i>not ... the village didn't change ...</i>)
☐ '225 people drowned in the recent floods.'	☐ Police said that 225 people had drowned in the recent floods. (<i>or ... drowned ...</i>)
☐ 'I stole the watch.'	☐ She admitted that she had stolen the watch. (<i>or ... stole ...</i>)

E

We can use either the past perfect or past simple (and often past continuous and past perfect continuous; see Units 4 and 7) when we talk about things that we intended to do, but didn't or won't now do in the future:

- ☐ I **had hoped** to visit the gallery before I left Florence, but it's closed on Mondays. (*or I hoped ..., I was hoping ..., I had been hoping ...*)
- ☐ Aron **planned** to retire at 60, but we have persuaded him to stay for a few more years. (*or Aron had planned ..., Aron was planning ..., Aron had been planning ...*)

- 5.1** The events mentioned in the magazine article are listed below. Write the order in which the events are mentioned and then the order in which they occurred (or were thought to occur). Compare the two lists and consider why the past perfect (in *italics*) was used. **A & B**

How I bought my dream house

When I first saw the old house I *had* just moved to the area. It *had been* empty for about a year and was beginning to need some repairs, but the house was exactly what I wanted. But by the time I *had put together* enough money I learnt that a property developer *had bought* it and planned to turn it into a hotel. Six months later I *had nearly given up* hope of finding anywhere to live in the village when I heard that the house was for sale again. The property developer *had decided* to invest his money in a new housing development on the edge of the village. I bought the house immediately and I've lived there happily ever since.



Carla Bridges

events	order events are mentioned in text	order of events
I moved ...	2	2
I learnt ...		
The property developer decided ...		
I heard ...		
I first saw the old house		1
A property developer bought it	1	
I nearly gave up...		
I put together enough money...		
It was empty		

- 5.2** Underline the correct options. In some cases only one is correct, and in others both are correct. **C & D**

- As Jonas was introduced to Mrs Lopez, he realised that he *had met* / *met* her before.
- During the previous week, I *had been* / *went* to the gym every evening.
- He denied that he *had taken* / *took* the money from the office.
- I thought it was the best film I *had seen* / *saw* in my life.
- The boy told me that he *had lost* / *lost* his train ticket and didn't know how he would get home.
- At the conference, scientists reported that they *had found* / *found* a cure for malaria.
- The teacher guessed that some of the children *had cheated* / *cheated* in the exam.
- She said that she *had made up* / *made up* her mind who to vote for, and that I couldn't persuade her to change.
- Thomas explained that he *had gone* / *went* home early because he felt ill.
- When I asked Maria about Jakub, she admitted that she *hadn't heard* / *didn't hear* from him for ages.
- The waiter took my plate away before I *had finished* / *finished* eating.
- Julia said she didn't want any dinner. Apparently, she *had eaten* / *ate* already.

- 5.3** Expand these sets of notes using the past perfect to begin each sentence. **E**

I / expect / operation / painful ~~I / hope / leave / by nine~~
 He / not mean / insult / her Lara / not intend / become / dentist
 I / not think of / cook rabbit

- I had hoped to leave by nine, but I overslept and missed the train.
-; she always wanted to be a vet.
-, but I didn't feel a thing.
-, until Andrei told me how tasty it was.
-, but Daria was very offended.

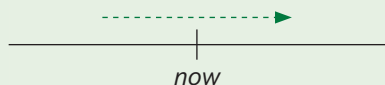
Present perfect continuous and present perfect

Reminder → A9–A12, A16–A17

A

We use the present perfect continuous to express the idea of an activity (a task, piece of work, etc.) in progress until recently or until the time of speaking:

- ☐ **Have you been working** in the garden *all day*? You look exhausted.
- ☐ She's **been writing** the book *since she was in her twenties* and at last it's finished.



Note that we often use time expressions to say how long the activity has been in progress.

We don't use the present perfect continuous with verbs such as **belong**, **know**, **(dis)like**, and **understand** that describe unchanging states:

- ☐ **Have you known** each other long? (*not* Have you been knowing ...)
- ☐ I **haven't liked** ice cream since I ate too much and was sick. (*not* I haven't been liking ...)

When we talk about situations (general characteristics or circumstances) that exist until the present we can often use either the present perfect or present perfect continuous:

- ☐ We've **been looking forward to** this holiday for ages. (*or* We've **looked forward to** ...)

B

We often use the present perfect or the present perfect continuous to talk about something that has recently finished if we can still see its results. However, we generally use the present perfect continuous with verbs that suggest extended or repeated activity. Compare:

- ☐ He's **broken** his finger and is in a lot of pain. (*not* He's been breaking ...) *and*
- ☐ I've **been playing** squash and need a shower! (*more likely than* I've played ...)

We use the present perfect continuous rather than the present perfect when we draw a conclusion from what we can see, hear, etc. We often use this form to complain or criticise:

- ☐ Who's **been messing** around with my papers? They're all over the place.
- ☐ You've **been eating** chocolate, haven't you? There's some on your shirt.

When we talk about the *result* of circumstances or an activity, we use the present perfect, rather than the present perfect continuous. When we focus on the *process* we often use either the present perfect or the present perfect continuous. Compare:

- ☐ Prices **have decreased** by 7%. (*not* Prices have been decreasing by 7%.) *and*
- ☐ Prices **have been decreasing** recently. (*or* Prices **have decreased** ...)
- ☐ I've **used** three tins of paint on the kitchen walls. (*not* I've been using three tins of paint on the kitchen walls.) *and*
- ☐ I've **been using** a new kind of paint on the kitchen walls. (*or* I've **used** ...)

C

The present perfect continuous emphasises that an activity is ongoing and repeated, while the present perfect suggests the activity happened only once or on a specified number of occasions:

- ☐ Miguel **has been kicking** a football against the wall all day. (*more likely than* ... **has kicked** ...)
- ☐ He **has played** for the national team in 65 matches so far. (*not* He has been playing for the national team in 65 matches so far.)

Compare:

- ☐ The workers **have been calling** for the chairman's resignation. (= emphasises a number of times, probably over an extended period) *and*
- ☐ Workers **have called** for management to begin negotiations on pay. (= maybe a number of times or only once.)

- 6.1** Complete each pair of sentences using the same verb. Use the present perfect in one sentence and the present perfect continuous in the other. Use negative forms where appropriate. **A–C**

disappear give put read stay stop swim

- 1 a Martina Gonzalez in a rented flat since returning to Buenos Aires.
b We at this hotel a couple of times before.
- 2 a All day, the police motorists to question them about the accident.
b Good, the noise I can start concentrating on my work again.
- 3 a I any of Dickens' novels.
b I this book on astrophysics for hours and I'm still only on page six.
- 4 a Dr Fletcher the same lecture to students for the last ten years.
b Mr Sato nearly a million pounds to the charity this year.
- 5 a I did 20 lengths of the pool today. I that far since I was at school.
b I and I feel exhausted.
- 6 a In recent years, companies increasing resources into internet marketing.
b The South African coal company the Calverton Mine up for sale.
- 7 a An important file from my office.
b Plants and vegetables from my garden since we had new neighbours.

- 6.2** Here are two views on the government's announcement that it is to cut the money it gives to the Influenza Research Centre. If necessary, correct the present perfect continuous verbs using either the present perfect or past simple. **A–C and Unit 3**

a Dr Petra Adams, the Director of the Centre



It's remarkable to think that since 1950 influenza (1) *has been claiming* more than 50,000 lives in this country, and in 1957 alone around 6,000 people (2) *have been dying*. But over the last 20 years we at the Centre (3) *have been making* considerable progress on understanding the illness. We (4) *have been producing* over a hundred books and articles reporting the results of our research and in 2012 they (5) *have been awarding* the Nobel Prize for medicine to one of my colleagues. In our more recent work we (6) *have been looking* into the effects of influenza on heart disease and we (7) *have also been exploring* a possible link between climate change and the recent increase in the number of cases of influenza. It is a tragedy that the government (8) *has been making* this decision now.

b Sabir Khan, the Opposition spokesperson for science



The previous government (1) *has been investing* huge amounts of money into the Centre and I think it's terrible that the present government (2) *has been announcing* this cut when the number of cases of influenza (3) *has been increasing*. The Centre (4) *has been running* successfully for many years. But this decision is just typical of this government. It (5) *has been neglecting* health research ever since it was elected, and (6) *has been cutting* back on spending on science generally. Although the government says that the cut is necessary because of the recent world economic problems, I (7) *have been finding* evidence that they (8) *have been planning* this for some time. I (9) *have been speaking* to the Minister about this yesterday and (10) *have also been writing* to the Prime Minister demanding that the decision should be reversed.

Past perfect continuous, past perfect and past continuous

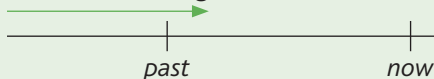
A

We use the past perfect continuous to talk about something that was in progress recently before or up to a past point in time, and the past perfect when we talk about a finished activity before a past time:

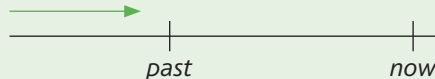
Reminder → A14–A15, A18

- ☐ I'd **been finishing** some work in the garden when Lea arrived, so I didn't hear her come in. (*not* I'd finished some work in the garden when Lea arrived, so I didn't hear her come in.) *and*
- ☐ I'd **finished** all the ironing so I started cleaning the windows. (*not* I'd been finishing all the ironing so I started cleaning the windows.)

had been finishing



had finished



We can often use either the past perfect continuous or the past perfect with a similar meaning:

- ☐ I'd **been working** / I'd **worked** hard all year, so I felt that I deserved a holiday.

B

If we talk about *how many* times something happened in a period up to a particular past time, we use the past perfect, not the past perfect continuous:

- ☐ How many times **had** you **met** him before yesterday? (*not* How many times had you been meeting ...)
- ☐ I **had stayed** in the hotel twice in the 1990s. (*not* I had been staying in the hotel twice ...)

C

The past perfect continuous can be used to talk about a situation or activity that went on before a particular past time and (i) finished at that time, (ii) continued beyond it, or (iii) finished shortly before it:

- ☐ (i) We'd **been driving** for about an hour when the engine suddenly stopped.
- ☐ (ii) She felt terrible during the interview because she **had been suffering** from flu since the previous day.
- ☐ (iii) When I last saw Omar, he'd **been running** and was out of breath.

If we are not interested in how long the activity went on, we can use the past continuous instead of the past perfect continuous. Compare:

- ☐ When the merger was announced it became apparent that the two companies **had been discussing** the possibility *since last year*. *and*
- ☐ A friend told me about a conversation she'd recently overheard. Two women **were discussing** their holiday plans ...
- ☐ I first met Mateo and Lucia when they **had been going out** together *for five years*, and they didn't get married for another three years after that. *and*
- ☐ Karin met Lars when she **was going out** with his best friend.

D

Remember that we don't describe states with continuous tenses (see Unit 1), and we use the past perfect, not the past perfect continuous, even when we focus on the length of a situation up to a particular past time:

- ☐ We **had only owned** the car for six weeks when the clutch broke. (*not* We had been owning the car for six weeks ...)

E

The past perfect continuous is mainly used in written texts and is less common in speech. Here is an example in a newspaper article:

- ☐ The body of a climber who went missing in the Alps was finally found yesterday. Carl Sims **had been climbing** alone near the Harz Waterfall, which has claimed many lives in the past.

7.1 Complete each pair of sentences using one verb from the box. Use the past perfect continuous if possible; if not, use the past perfect. **A**

apply carry fly work

- 1 a She only for the company for a couple of months, so I was surprised to hear that she'd left.
- b She finally her way up from trainee to a management position, and she celebrated her promotion with a big party.
- 2 a The avalanche them 500 metres down the mountain but no one was hurt.
- b She took a bottle from the bag she all the way from home.
- 3 a We for visas early, but still hadn't got them by the week before the holiday.
- b She for jobs, without success, since leaving university.
- 4 a He all the way from New York to be at yesterday's meeting.
- b When the plane was diverted, shortly after take-off, it from London to Frankfurt.

7.2 Use the past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets if appropriate; if not, use the past perfect. **B-D**

- 1 Mrs Bishop to have children for years, and only became pregnant at the age of 45. (*try*)
- 2 This was the first time we had been to the castle, even though we Prague a few times before. (*visit*)
- 3 She bought her first watch at the age of eight. It two pounds. (*cost*)
- 4 Emma Willems novels for ten years before she published her first book. (*write*)
- 5 For some time Daniel about passing the exams and eventually decided to change the course he was taking. (*worry*)
- 6 My teacher was really annoyed with me. It was the third time I late for school that week. (*arrive*)
- 7 I always it would be easy to get a job, and was disappointed to be rejected. (*believe*)
- 8 We about Sarah when, to our amazement, she walked through the door. (*talk*)

In which one of the sentences where you have used the past perfect continuous do you think the past continuous is more likely? **C**

7.3 Study this conversation extract. If the italicised verbs are correct, write ✓. If they are wrong, correct them using either the past perfect (active or passive) or past perfect continuous. **A-E**

- A: How was your weekend?
- B: Not great, actually. I (1) *'d really been looking* forward to a relaxing couple of days. But early on Saturday morning Mum phoned to say that Dad (2) *had been taking* ill.
- A: Oh, no! What (3) *had happened*?
- B: She (4) *had just been hearing* that he (5) *had been flown* by helicopter to hospital in Edinburgh from a village called Contin where he (6) *had fished* with my Uncle Mark.
- A: And is he okay? What's wrong with him?
- B: Well, Uncle Mark said that Dad (7) *had been complaining* of a bad headache most of yesterday, but he (8) *hadn't been wanting* to go back to the hotel and spoil the day. But then in the evening, just as they (9) *had stopped* fishing for the day, he (10) *had been collapsing*...

Present and past time: review

A Continuous and simple

Reminder → Section A

When we focus on an activity itself, starting before and continuing up to (and possibly beyond) a particular point of time, rather than focusing on actions as completed events, we use *continuous* forms:

- ☐ Ingrid can't come to the phone. She's **washing** her hair.
- ☐ As you're **not using** your car at the moment, can I borrow it?
- ☐ This time yesterday I **was flying** over the Pacific.
- ☐ **Was** she **wearing** that red dress when you saw her?

We use *simple* forms to talk about general situations, habits, and things that are or were always true:

- ☐ When I **worked** as a postman I **got up** at three o'clock every morning.
- ☐ Miguel **doesn't play** golf very well.
- ☐ These birds **build** their nests on the ground.
- ☐ The earthquake **struck** the area at midday yesterday. (past simple for completed events)

We use simple forms with verbs that describe unchanging states (that stay the same):

- ☐ She **intends** to work hard at school and go on to university.
- ☐ **Did** you **understand** the instructions we were given?

However, we can use continuous forms with these verbs when they describe something happening or changing:

- ☐ She **was intending** to talk to Tony about the idea, but she didn't get the opportunity.
- ☐ I'm **understanding** physics much better now that Mr Davies is teaching us.

B Perfect

We use *perfect* verb forms to describe one event or state from the point of view of a later time. The present perfect suggests a connection between something that happened in the past and the present time. Note, however, that the situation or event does not have to continue until the time of speaking, only to have some connection or relevance to the present time:

- ☐ I've **finished** that book you wanted, so you can borrow it now.
- ☐ **Have** you **turned** the heating off? I don't like it to be on when I'm not at home.
- ☐ Your nose is bleeding. **Has** somebody **hit** you?

The past perfect is used to locate a past event before another past event:

- ☐ I invited him out to dinner, but he said he **had** already **eaten**.
- ☐ By the time I picked up the phone, they **had rung off**.

C Combinations of perfect and continuous

We combine the perfect and continuous forms in the present perfect continuous to describe an activity in progress either at or recently before the time of speaking, and possibly beyond it:

- ☐ I **have been following** the discussions on the forum with great interest.

We can also use the present perfect continuous to talk about activities that have recently finished with some result that can be seen, heard, etc.:

- ☐ Look at the dirt on your clothes! **Have** you **been digging** in the garden again?

The past perfect continuous has a similar meaning. However, the point of reference is not 'now' (as it is with the present perfect continuous) but a point in the past:

- ☐ When we met Lena and Marko, they **had been riding**.
- ☐ It **had been snowing** heavily for hours and when I went to the door I couldn't open it.

- 8.1** Amy is writing a blog for her friends and family as she travels around Australia. Use the present simple, present continuous, past simple or past continuous of the verbs in the box to complete the extract. **A**

In 1–10 use:

arrive feel (×2) get go know spend text wait ~~write~~

In 11–20 use:

ask complain enjoy get (not) get on hear look (×2) seem start

I (1) am writing this blog in a hotel room in Perth. I (2) here a couple of hours ago after a long coach journey from Adelaide. I (3) pretty tired so this will only be a short post before I (4) to sleep. As you (5) , I (6) last week in Adelaide with Ruby. I (7) her a month or so ago to tell her when I would be arriving, and she (8) at the airport for me when I (9) there. For the first few days I (10) quite jet-lagged, but I soon (11) over that after a few days of lazing around on the beach. Ruby (12) living in Adelaide a lot, although she (13) for a new job just now. It (14) that she (15) very well with her colleagues. Apparently they constantly (16) about the working conditions and it (17) to annoy Ruby. She (18) me to pass on her best wishes to all her old friends. So now I (19) forward to exploring Perth. I (20) it's a wonderful place. I'll post again soon. Amy



- 8.2** Complete this extract from a newspaper article using the past simple, present perfect or past perfect of the verbs in brackets. **B**

RONSON SACKED IN UNITED CUTS

Aston United (1) have sacked (sack) their manager, Neil Ronson. The former England football international (2) (say) that he (3) (hear) the news when he (4) (return) from a three-week holiday in Spain and that it (5) (come) as a complete shock. 'There (6) (be) no hint of any problem when I (7) (leave) for the holiday.' Aston United (8) (appoint) Ronson as manager two years ago and

last season they (9) (finish) second in the First Division. However, they (10) (win) only five matches so far this season. The chairman of the club, Peter White, last night (11) (accuse) Ronson of lack of commitment to the club. 'Neil's attitude (12) (disappoint) us recently. Over the last few months he (13) (spend) more time on Spanish beaches than working with the players in Aston.'

- 8.3** Here is the rest of the conversation in Exercise 7.3. If the italicised verb is correct, write ✓. If it is wrong, correct it using the past simple, present perfect, past perfect, present perfect continuous or past perfect continuous. **A–C**

- A: (1) *Did he have* any health problems recently?
 B: Well, he (2) *'s been suffering* from stress for some time, but we (3) *have thought* a holiday in Scotland would be relaxing for him. He (4) *worked* too hard for months, and we (5) *'ve been trying* to persuade him to have a break for ages before he agreed.
 A: So (6) *have you gone* up to Scotland when you (7) *have heard*?
 B: No, Mum (8) *has gone* up to be with him, but the doctors (9) *have checked* him over and (10) *had been saying* that it's not too serious. They (11) *gave* him some medicine to bring down his blood pressure and (12) *had told* him that he needs complete rest for a couple of months. So Mum's driving him back in the car tomorrow.
 A: Well, send him my best wishes when you speak to him.
 B: Thanks, I will do.