

8- Past perfect continuous

Objectives: The main goal of this lesson is to introduce past perfect continuous to students. It also tends to highlight and explain how and where it is used.

8-1 To understand the past perfect continuous, study the following example:

Yesterday, when the pupils **entered** the classroom, the teacher **noticed** that their aprons **were** dirty. They **had been fighting**.



They **were** not **fighting** when the teacher noticed their aprons, but they **had been fighting** before.

Had been -ing is the past perfect continuous:

I/we/they/you	Had	(=I'd etc.)	Been	Studying
He/she/it		(=he'd etc.)		teaching
				sitting etc

8-2 It is possible to indicate that an event had been occurring for a duration of time prior to another event taking place: consider the following example:

- We **had been studying** Grammar for about an hour when it started to rain heavily.

8-3 Certain verbs such as (**know** and **like**) are not normally used in the progressive form:

- We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (not had been knowing)
. (Murphy, 2012, p. 32).

Exercise:01

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. ! 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). (Murphy, 2012, p. 33).