

araq

StartUp 6

Grammar

Unit5 – Lesson1

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LOOK AT THE TEXT AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS.

- She **had been studying** for hours before her exam, hoping to ace it.
- The chef **had been preparing** the special dish all morning when the guests finally arrived.
- Before the rain started, they **had been playing** tennis in the park for a couple of hours.

Complete the rules:

- *We use the past perfect continuous to show that an activity started in the past and continued up until another point in the past. To form it we use had + _____ + v/ing*

Present the sentences and ask for the Ss' opinions to answer the questions.

Teach the structure deductively for the maximum of 5 minutes. Feel free to add any necessary explanations.

RULES:

The past perfect continuous tense, also known as the past perfect progressive tense, is a verb tense used to describe an action or state that was ongoing in the past and was still in progress up to another point in the past. It is formed by combining the past perfect (had + past participle) with the continuous aspect (been + present participle).

The structure of the past perfect continuous tense is as follows:
had + been + present participle

Here's a breakdown of the components:

Had: This is the past perfect auxiliary verb.
Been: This is the past participle of the auxiliary verb "be."
Present Participle: This is the "-ing" form of the main verb.

Teach the structure deductively for the maximum of 5 minutes. Feel free to add any necessary explanations.

RULES:

For example:
Affirmative: She had been studying for hours before the exam.
In this sentence, the action of studying was ongoing in the past, and it continued up to a specific point (before the exam).

Negative: They had not been waiting for long when the bus finally arrived.
Here, the action of waiting had been happening, but it stopped when the bus arrived.

Interrogative: Had you been working here for a long time before you decided to leave?
This question asks about the duration of someone's work before they decided to leave.
The past perfect continuous tense is often used to emphasize the duration or continuity of an action in the past, especially when there is a need to convey that the action was ongoing up to a certain point in the past.

Have your Ss read the sentences aloud. Recap any tips if necessary.



READ THE TABLE.

We use the past perfect continuous to show that an activity started in the past and continued up until another point in the past.

Statements

Subject	*Had (not) + been*	Present participle	
I	had been	loading	my presentation files when the screen froze.
They			

Questions

	Had	Subject	*Been*	Present participle	
	Had	you	been	loading	your files when the screen froze?
What	had	you	been	doing	when the screen froze?

>> FOR PRACTICE, GO TO PAGE 137



A Complete the sentences with the past perfect continuous form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. I had been writing (write) my essay when the battery in my laptop died.
2. We _____ (not / work) for very long when the hard drive crashed.
3. _____ you _____ (have) these problems before you started your presentation?
4. Before the battery died, the computer _____ (not / give) the professor any problems.
5. She _____ (try) to log in when the screen froze.
6. The student _____ (get) strange error messages for a while before the tech guy scanned the computer.

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Oral Practice



Practice different forms of grammar by providing the context to Ss and having them produce sentences individually.

Ask your students to do the task in a couple of minutes.



C MAKE IT PERSONAL Write sentences about technology problems you have had at home, school, or work. Use the past perfect continuous.

1. I had been watching a movie when the screen froze.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Create breakout rooms to have the Ss share their ideas. Give FEEDBACK right after.

IN PAIRS!

Share what you have written and add more details.



C MAKE IT PERSONAL Write sentences about technology problems you have had at home, school, or work. Use the past perfect continuous.

1. I had been watching a movie when the screen froze.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Ask your students to do the task in as homework. Provide them with the answers the following session.

HOMEWORK

B Read Maria's email about her problems with technology. Circle the correct form of the verbs.

From: Maria To: Robbie

Dear Robbie,

What a day! I **(1) had already been having / had already had** a few problems with my phone, and I remembered that you **(2) had been having / having** a few problems with your phone when it broke completely. So today after I'd **(3) been charging / charged** it completely and the screen froze, I wasn't surprised. I breathed deeply and walked away from it for ten minutes.

When I **(4) returned / had been returning**, it seemed fine, so I left the house. By the time I got to work, the screen **(5) had been freezing / had frozen** again! I nearly screamed!

I **(6) had already made / already made** an appointment at the phone repair center, so I took the phone in during my lunch break. The tech guy told me he'd restored the phone settings, and I shouldn't have any more problems. I paid and left the shop feeling happy to have a working phone again.

You'll never guess what happened next. I had met a co-worker as I was returning to the office, and I **(7) telling / had been telling** her that the problem was solved when my phone rang. I was just getting it out of my bag when a man rushed by and knocked the phone out of my hand. It landed hard on the sidewalk. When I picked it up, the screen was broken. I nearly cried! I guess I'll be buying a new phone!



Best,

Maria

From: Maria To: Robbie

Dear Robbie,

What a day! I **(1)** **had already been having / had already had** a few problems with my phone, and I remembered that you **(2)** **had been having / having** a few problems with your phone when it broke completely. So today after I'd **(3)** **been charging / charged** it completely and the screen froze, I wasn't surprised. I breathed deeply and walked away from it for ten minutes.

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Best,

Maria