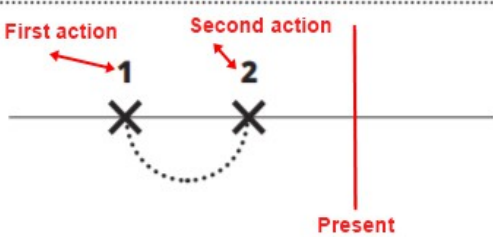


## PAST PERFECT PROGRESSIVE

### LEARNING OBJECTIVE:

In this video students will gain a greater understanding of the past perfect progressive tense and its practical use when constructing sentences.

The past perfect progressive isn't the most commonly used tense in the English language. However, it's important and useful when you want to talk about two actions in the past, one long action being interrupted by the second shorter action. This can be very useful when explaining something to someone. For example at work.

	Past perfect progressive
The Difference	
Structure	Had plus (+) Been plus (+) ing (gerund)
How it's used	Two actions happen in the past one before the other. The first long action is interrupted by the second short action.

Situation: You are at work and your manager wants an explanation about why your report is late. The report should have been emailed to your manager by 5pm but you are late and you need to explain.

### Conversation:

MANAGER: Hello Renata. Why haven't I received the report? I needed it by 5pm today.

RENATA: Hi Jim, I'm very sorry, but I will email it as soon as possible.

MANAGER: But why are you late?

RENATA: I was about to email it this afternoon. I **"had been working"** on the report for four hours when the electricity **went** off and I had to stop work for a few hours.

In this example the first long action **"had been working"** (past perfect progressive) was interrupted by the second short action **"electricity went off."** You can see here that the first long action "had been working" was interrupted by the second short action "went off" and that the second short action is in the simple past (went).

Continued:

So, the first long action is in the past perfect progressive and the second short action is in the simple past.

More examples:

1. We **had been studying** Portuguese for ten years when I finally took my exam.
2. Renata **had been reading** Harry Potter for the last two months when she saw the movie.
3. My car **had been running** badly for a few days when I finally took it to a garage to be fixed.

### Practice examples 5

Which of these sentences are "Past perfect progressive?"

1. Steve had run in many marathons by the time he was 40 years old.
2. John went to the cinema last night.
3. Bill will have played golf for over twenty years by next December.
4. Did you play football last Saturday?
5. Renata had been living in the UK for five years when she finally got her citizenship.
6. John and I have been playing golf together for years.
7. John and Bill have played football together for the last five years.
8. Renata will have lived in France for five years when she gets her visa.
9. The number 9 bus has been coming by our shop for the last 20 years.

The answers to these questions can be found in the downloadable document "Answers to questions"