

PAST PERFECT: SIMPLE & CONTINUOUS

B2 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Question Writing | 20-30 minutes

Complete questions, write detailed answers and form questions of your own.

EXAMPLE

Question: How long **had** you **been waiting** when the train arrived?

Answer: I'd **been waiting** for an hour. I'd **already missed** one connection.

Remember: Had + participle: earlier completion/state. Had been + -ing: earlier activity/duration.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Complete the questions using the grammar cues. Write full answers with a relevant detail.

1. What _____ you _____ before a recent deadline? (finish)

Answer: _____

2. How long _____ you _____ before your last exam? (revise; activity)

Answer: _____

3. What _____ you _____ before you last felt tired? (do; activity)

Answer: _____

4. How long _____ you _____ an old friend when you last met? (know)

Answer: _____

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

Put the words in order. Write each question. Start with a capital letter and add ?.

1. prepared / what / you / before / guests / the / arrived / had

2. had / long / break / you / when / you / took / a / working / been

3. how / finished / had / many / tasks / you / noon / by

Try it: Ask your partner the questions in B. Ask one follow-up of your own.

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

A. COMPLETE AND ANSWER

Target forms and model answers are shown below. Personal answers will vary.

1. had / finished - What had you finished before a recent deadline?

Sample answer: I'd finished the research, but I still needed to write the conclusion.

2. had / been revising - How long had you been revising before your last exam?

Sample answer: I'd been revising for three weeks, so I felt reasonably prepared.

3. had / been doing - What had you been doing before you last felt tired?

Sample answer: I'd been carrying boxes upstairs all morning, so I needed a rest.

4. had / known - How long had you known an old friend when you last met?

Sample answer: I'd known her for ten years, although we hadn't seen each other for a while.

B. WRITE THE QUESTIONS

1. What had you prepared before the guests arrived?

2. Had you been working long when you took a break?

3. How many tasks had you finished by noon?

TEACHER NOTES

Establish a later past reference point. Continuous know is not normally appropriate; duration can allow aspect choices.

Accept correct full forms and contractions. Check that answers match the question.

Encourage one relevant detail; check word order, capitals and question marks in B.