



# Past Perfect Continuous: Present Perfect Continuous vs Past Perfect Continuous

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- I \_\_\_\_ (wait) here for an hour. Where are you? (speaking now)  
a) have been waiting  
b) was waiting  
c) had been waiting  
d) am waiting
- I \_\_\_\_ (wait) for an hour when she finally arrived. (past situation)  
a) waited  
b) have been waiting  
c) was waiting  
d) had been waiting
- She \_\_\_\_ (study) English for three years. She's getting quite good. (current situation)  
a) has been studying  
b) is studying  
c) was studying  
d) had been studying
- She \_\_\_\_ (study) English for three years when she moved to London. (past situation)  
a) has been studying  
b) had been studying  
c) studied  
d) was studying
- It \_\_\_\_ (rain) all morning. The streets are still wet. (now)  
a) has been raining  
b) had been raining  
c) was raining  
d) is raining
- It \_\_\_\_ (rain) all morning, so by the time the match started, the pitch was waterlogged. (past)  
a) had been raining  
b) was raining  
c) rained  
d) has been raining
- They \_\_\_\_ (live) in this house for twenty years. They love it here. (now)  
a) had been living  
b) were living  
c) are living  
d) have been living
- They \_\_\_\_ (live) in that house for twenty years when they decided to move. (past)  
a) have been living  
b) lived  
c) had been living  
d) were living
- How long \_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_ (work) on this project? (asking now)  
a) have ... been working  
b) are ... working  
c) had ... been working  
d) were ... working
- How long \_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_ (work) on the project when it was cancelled? (past situation)  
a) did ... work  
b) have ... been working  
c) had ... been working  
d) were ... working





## Answers

1. a) have been waiting
2. d) had been waiting
3. a) has been studying
4. b) had been studying
5. a) has been raining
6. a) had been raining
7. d) have been living
8. c) had been living
9. a) have ... been working
10. c) had ... been working
11. b) have been reading
12. b) had been reading
13. a) has been playing
14. d) had been playing
15. c) have been trying
16. a) had been trying
17. a) have been learning
18. a) had been learning
19. b) have ... been doing
20. c) had been doing



# Explanations

**1. “have been waiting” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have been waiting' because the action connects to NOW (Where are you?).

**2. “had been waiting” (d)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been waiting' because the action connects to a PAST moment ('she arrived').

**3. “has been studying” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'has been studying' because the situation continues to the present.

**4. “had been studying” (b)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been studying' — the three years ended at a past point ('moved to London').

**5. “has been raining” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'has been raining' — the wet streets show a present result.

**6. “had been raining” (a)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been raining' because the ongoing rain ('all morning') caused a visible past result ('the pitch was waterlogged') before another past event ('the match started').

**7. “have been living” (d)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have been living' — they still live there (present situation).

**8. “had been living” (c)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been living' — the twenty years ended at a past decision.

**9. “have ... been working” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have you been working' because we're asking about time until NOW.

**10. “had ... been working” (c)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had you been working' — asking about time until a PAST event.

**11. “have been reading” (b)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have been reading' — the tired eyes are a present result.

**12. “had been reading” (b)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been reading' — the tired eyes were a past result.

**13. “has been playing” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'has been playing' — the skill continues to NOW.

**14. “had been playing” (d)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been playing' — the experience led to a past achievement.

**15. “have been trying” (c)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have been trying' — asking about a current situation.

**16. “had been trying” (a)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been trying' — the attempts ended when he called back (past).

**17. “have been learning” (a)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have been learning' — the learning is ongoing/recent.

**18. “had been learning” (a)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been learning' because the duration ('for several weeks') emphasizes an ongoing action before a past result ('understood the documentary better').

**19. “have ... been doing” (b)**

Use Present Perfect Continuous 'have you been doing' — asking about recent activity causing current exhaustion.

**20. “had been doing” (c)**

Use Past Perfect Continuous 'had been doing' — asking about activity before a past moment.