



Past Perfect Continuous: Narrative Tenses Review

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- When I ___ (arrive) at the station, the train ___ (already / leave).
a) arrived ... was already leaving
b) arrived ... had already left
c) had arrived ... was leaving
d) was arriving ... already left
- She ___ (look) tired because she ___ (work) all night.
a) looked ... had been working
b) was looking ... worked
c) had looked ... had been working
d) looked ... was working
- While I ___ (walk) home, I ___ (meet) an old friend.
a) walked ... met
b) walked ... was meeting
c) had been walking ... met
d) was walking ... met
- The ground ___ (be) wet because it ___ (rain) all morning.
a) was ... was raining
b) was ... has rained
c) was ... had been raining
d) had been ... was raining
- I ___ (read) a book when the phone ___ (ring).
a) read ... rang
b) was reading ... rang
c) had read ... was ringing
d) read ... was ringing
- By the time the ambulance ___ (arrive), the patient ___ (already / die).
a) arrived ... had already died
b) had arrived ... already died
c) was arriving ... had already died
d) arrived ... was already dying
- He ___ (be) out of breath because he ___ (run) to catch the bus.
a) was ... had been running
b) was ... was running
c) was ... has run
d) had been ... was running
- When she ___ (open) the door, she ___ (see) that someone ___ (break) into her house.
a) had opened ... saw ... broke
b) opened ... was seeing ... had broken
c) opened ... saw ... had broken
d) was opening ... saw ... broke
- They ___ (dance) for hours when the music suddenly ___ (stop).
a) were dancing ... was stopping
b) danced ... stopped
c) have been dancing ... stopped
d) had been dancing ... stopped
- I ___ (not / recognize) him because he ___ (change) so much.
a) didn't recognize ... was changing
b) didn't recognize ... had changed
c) hadn't recognized ... changed
d) wasn't recognizing ... changed
- While the children ___ (play) in the garden, their mother ___ (cook) dinner.
a) played ... cooked
b) were playing ... was cooking
c) had been playing ... cooked
d) were playing ... cooked

12. She ____ (study) medicine for five years before she ____ (become) a doctor.
 a) has been studying ... became
 b) had been studying ... became
 c) had studied ... was becoming
 d) was studying ... became
13. The film ____ (already / start) when we ____ (get) to the cinema.
 a) already started ... were getting
 b) had already started ... got
 c) already started ... got
 d) was already starting ... got
14. I ____ (feel) nervous because I ____ (never / fly) before.
 a) was feeling ... never flew
 b) had felt ... had never flown
 c) felt ... never flew
 d) felt ... had never flown
15. He ____ (sit) in the cafe for an hour when his friend finally ____ (appear).
 a) was sitting ... was appearing
 b) had been sitting ... appeared
 c) sat ... appeared
 d) has been sitting ... appeared
16. As soon as I ____ (hear) the news, I ____ (call) my parents.
 a) heard ... called
 b) was hearing ... had called
 c) heard ... was calling
 d) had heard ... was calling
17. They ____ (live) in the countryside for years before they ____ (decide) to move to the city.
 a) have been living ... decided
 b) were living ... decided
 c) had been living ... decided
 d) had lived ... were deciding
18. When I ____ (wake) up, the sun ____ (shine) and the birds ____ (sing).
 a) had woken ... was shining ... were singing
 b) woke ... shone ... sang
 c) was waking ... shone ... sang
 d) woke ... was shining ... were singing
19. She ____ (cry) because she ____ (just / watch) a sad movie.
 a) was crying ... was just watching
 b) cried ... just watched
 c) was crying ... had just watched
 d) had been crying ... just watched
20. By midnight, we ____ (drive) for eight hours, so we ____ (decide) to stop at a hotel.
 a) had driven ... were deciding
 b) had been driving ... decided
 c) were driving ... decided
 d) drove ... decided



Answers

1. b) arrived ... had already left
2. a) looked ... had been working
3. d) was walking ... met
4. c) was ... had been raining
5. b) was reading ... rang
6. a) arrived ... had already died
7. a) was ... had been running
8. c) opened ... saw ... had broken
9. d) had been dancing ... stopped
10. b) didn't recognize ... had changed
11. b) were playing ... was cooking
12. b) had been studying ... became
13. b) had already started ... got
14. d) felt ... had never flown
15. b) had been sitting ... appeared
16. a) heard ... called
17. c) had been living ... decided
18. d) woke ... was shining ... were singing
19. c) was crying ... had just watched
20. b) had been driving ... decided



Explanations

1. “arrived ... had already left” (b)

Use Past Simple for the main event ('arrived') and Past Perfect for the earlier completed action ('had already left').

2. “looked ... had been working” (a)

Use Past Simple for the observation ('looked') and Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing action that caused it.

3. “was walking ... met” (d)

Use Past Continuous for the background action ('was walking') and Past Simple for the interrupting event ('met').

4. “was ... had been raining” (c)

Use Past Simple for the state ('was wet') and Past Perfect Continuous for the earlier ongoing cause ('had been raining all morning'). 'Has rained' (Present Perfect) is wrong in a past narrative.

5. “was reading ... rang” (b)

Use Past Continuous for the ongoing activity ('was reading') and Past Simple for the sudden interruption ('rang'). 'Had read ... was ringing' reverses the tense logic incorrectly.

6. “arrived ... had already died” (a)

Use Past Simple for the later event ('arrived') and Past Perfect for the earlier completed action.

7. “was ... had been running” (a)

Use Past Simple for the state ('was out of breath') and Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing cause ('had been running'). 'Has run' (Present Perfect) is wrong in a past narrative.

8. “opened ... saw ... had broken” (c)

Use Past Simple for the sequence of events and Past Perfect for the earlier action (break-in happened before she saw it).

9. “had been dancing ... stopped” (d)

Use Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing action with duration ('had been dancing for hours') and Past Simple for the sudden event ('stopped'). 'Have been dancing' (Present Perfect Continuous) is wrong in a past narrative.

10. “didn't recognize ... had changed” (b)

Use Past Simple for the main event ('didn't recognize') and Past Perfect for the earlier change.

11. “were playing ... was cooking” (b)

Use Past Continuous for both parallel ongoing actions happening at the same time.

12. “had been studying ... became” (b)

Use Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing action over time ('for five years') and Past Simple for the later achievement ('became a doctor'). 'Has been studying' (Present Perfect Continuous) is wrong in a past narrative.

13. “had already started ... got” (b)

Use Past Perfect for the earlier event ('had started') and Past Simple for the later arrival.

14. “felt ... had never flown” (d)

Use Past Simple for the feeling and Past Perfect for the earlier lack of experience.

15. “had been sitting ... appeared” (b)

Use Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing wait with duration ('for an hour') and Past Simple for the later arrival ('appeared'). 'Has been sitting' (Present Perfect Continuous) is wrong in a past narrative.

16. “heard ... called” (a)

Use Past Simple for both actions in a quick sequence with 'as soon as'. 'Was hearing ... had called' incorrectly puts 'hear' in continuous form and reverses the time sequence.

17. “had been living ... decided” (c)

Use Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing situation with duration ('for years') and Past Simple for the later decision ('decided'). 'Have been living' (Present Perfect Continuous) is wrong in a past narrative.

18. “woke ... was shining ... were singing” (d)

Use Past Simple for the main event and Past Continuous for the background scene setting.

19. “was crying ... had just watched” (c)

Use Past Continuous for the ongoing crying and Past Perfect for the recently completed cause.

20. “had been driving ... decided” (b)

Use Past Perfect Continuous for the ongoing journey up to midnight and Past Simple for the decision.