CHAPTER

6

The Past Perfect and the Past Perfect Continuous

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They had been hiking for hours by then.

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A1 Before You Read
Discuss these questions.
Have you ever wanted to do something different or unusual, such as climbing a mountain or bungee jumping? Name some challenges that you would like to face. Why do some people like to face great challenges?

A2 Read
Read this book excerpt to find out why a young woman wanted to participate in an educational program called Outward Bound.

Wild Thing

With the wind biting my face and rain soaking through my clothes, it didn’t seem like July. I watched a puddle form at the foot of my

5 sleeping bag as the 10-foot plastic sheet above me gave way to the wind. I hadn’t eaten for almost a day, and a rumble in my stomach demanded to know why I was in the

10 Northern Cascades of Oregon—alone, soaked—in the first place. With two more days alone in the wilds ahead of me, I had plenty of time to think about that question.

15 I’d always admired people who had been in Outward Bound, basically because I’d always lumped myself in the I-could-never-do-that category. For one thing, I just assumed I was

20 too small and urban... I also wasn’t a big risk-taker. I’d always relied a lot
on my family and friends, and I evaluated myself on how well I met their expectations of me.

25 Signing up for an Outward Bound course the summer after my junior year in high school was a chance to break away from that. After all, the courses are described as “adventure-based education programs that promote self-discovery through tough outdoor activities.” Exactly what I needed; I would be facing challenges away from my usual supporters. As the starting date approached, though, I became increasingly terrified. I’d never attempted mountain climbing, white-water rafting, backpacking, rappelling, or rock climbing, and I was plagued by fears that I would fail at one or all of them. I begged my mother to cancel for me. No such luck...

Adapted from *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul*

**lump:** to put many things into one category

**plagued:** continuously upset or troubled

**rappelling:** using ropes to climb down a steep mountain

**rumble:** a deep, rolling sound

**wilds:** wilderness; a natural area with few people

### A3 After You Read

Write T for true or F for false for each statement.

1. The young woman was going to spend two more days alone in the wilderness.
   - T

2. She came from the city.
   - F

3. She had always been very self-confident.
   - F

4. It was summer.
   - F

5. She was an expert mountain climber.
   - F

6. Her mother wanted her to stay home.
   - T
The Past Perfect and the Past Perfect Continuous

Think Critically About Form

A. Look back at the book excerpt on page 122 and complete the tasks below.

1. **IDENTIFY** An example of the past perfect is underlined. Find four more examples. What is the contracted form of had in the past perfect?
2. **COMPARE AND CONTRAST** Look at the following example of the past perfect continuous. Underline the two auxiliaries and circle the main verb. How does it differ from the past perfect?

She had been searching for a way to challenge herself.

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Form charts to check them.

### The Past Perfect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBJECT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>He</td>
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<tr>
<td>They</td>
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</table>

**CONTRACTION**

He'd hiked for hours by then.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEGATIVE STATEMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBJECT</strong></td>
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<td>He</td>
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<tr>
<td>They</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CONTRACTION**

He hadn’t hiked before.

### The Past Perfect Continuous

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AFFIRMATIVE STATEMENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBJECT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>He</td>
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<tr>
<td>They</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CONTRACTION**

He’d been hiking for hours by then.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEGATIVE STATEMENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBJECT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
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<tr>
<td>He</td>
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<tr>
<td>They</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**CONTRACTION**

He hadn’t been hiking before.
The Past Perfect

- The past perfect has the same form with all subjects.
- The past participle of regular verbs is the same as the simple past form (verb + -ed). See Appendices 4 and 5 for spelling and pronunciation rules for verbs ending in -ed.
- Irregular verbs have special past participle forms. See Appendix 6 for irregular verbs and their past participles.
- See Appendix 14 for contractions with had.
- Note that the past perfect form of have is had had. It is an irregular form.

It was 2:00 P.M. We had had a busy day at the store, and I was exhausted.

(Continued on page 126)
The Past Perfect Continuous

- The past perfect continuous has two auxiliary verbs: had and been. Only had forms contractions.
- Verbs with stative meanings are not usually used with the past perfect continuous.
  
  I had already known him for many years.
  
  x I had already been knowing him for many years. (INCORRECT)
- See Appendix 3 for spelling rules for verbs ending in -ing.

B1 Listening for Form

Listen and write the simple past, past perfect, or past perfect continuous verb forms you hear. Use full forms or contractions.

In 1928, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic. Ten years before, she was a nurse's aide when she discovered an airfield near Toronto. She made her mind that she to fly an airplane right then. After her trans-Atlantic flight, Ms. Earhart an instant heroine, although she really the plane. Her two male companions her touch any of the controls. But the world.

Charles Lindbergh the Atlantic a year earlier, and many aviators to repeat his successful flight since then. Sadly, fourteen pilots, including three women, since Lindbergh's triumph. Because Ms. Earhart embarrassed about her role in her first trans-Atlantic flight, she more determined than ever to fly across the Atlantic alone. And that's exactly what in 1932 when she finally over the Atlantic by herself.
B2 Working on Verb Forms

Complete the chart.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE PAST</th>
<th>PAST PERFECT</th>
<th>PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I flew home.</td>
<td>I had flown home.</td>
<td>I had been flying home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>We had gone to school.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>They had been trying hard.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I held my keys.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>You had been having fun.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. He made a mess.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>They had thought about it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>We had been doing nothing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. What happened?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>It had gotten harder.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B3 Building Sentences

Build as many meaningful sentences as possible. Use an item from each column. Punctuate your sentences correctly.

Had you been working?

- had you
- she
- who
- been
- had
- had been
- working
- left
- lunch
- sick
- taken a walk
B4 Asking and Answering Questions

A. Work with a partner. Take turns asking and answering questions using the phrases below and the past perfect. Start your questions with Before you started this course and use ever. Respond with short answers and an explanation.

1. take any other English courses
   
   A: Before you started this course, had you ever taken any other English courses?
   B: Yes, I had. I'd studied English for a year in high school. OR
   No, I hadn't. I'd never taken any English courses.

2. study English grammar

3. speak on the phone in English

4. write any letters in English

5. see any English-language movies

B. Now take turns asking and answering questions using the phrases below and the past perfect continuous. Start your questions with Before you started this course. Respond with short answers and an explanation.

1. read any English-language newspapers
   
   A: Before you started this course, had you been reading any English-language newspapers?
   B: Yes, I had. I'd been reading The New York Times almost every day. OR
   No, I hadn't.

2. learn any songs in English

3. practice English with friends

4. watch any TV programs in English

5. listen to English-language news broadcasts

B5 Transforming Sentences

Change the past perfect continuous to the past perfect. Where possible, change the past perfect to the past perfect continuous. Which sentences cannot change? Why?

1. We had been standing outside for a long time.
   
   We had stood outside for a long time.

2. I had never had a car with so many problems.

3. She had been limping for the last mile.
4. How long had they known about the accident?
5. Where had everybody been?
6. Had anyone been looking for us?
7. They had been trying to call for help.
8. What had happened?

Informally Speaking

Reduced Forms of Had
Look at the cartoon and listen to the conversation. How is the underlined form in the cartoon different from what you hear?

Especially in fast speech, had is usually reduced with subject nouns. Had is also reduced with many information question words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standard Form</th>
<th>What You Might Hear</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dana had already left.</td>
<td>/ðænad/ already left.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The cars had stopped.</td>
<td>/ˈkaːzd/ stopped.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who had already left?</td>
<td>/həd/ already left?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What had you been doing?</td>
<td>/ˈwɛtəd/ you been doing?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B6 Understanding Informal Speech

Listen and write the standard form of the words you hear.

1. She __ had __ never __ been __ alone in the woods before.
2. Her family ____________ camping when she was young.
3. Her father ____________ her the skills she needed.
4. No one ____________ her for this experience, though.
5. Why _____ she ____________ for this program?
6. Who _____ she ____________ to impress?
The Past Perfect

Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read the sentences and complete the tasks below.
   a. I called for help because a tree had fallen across my driveway.
   b. She wanted to withdraw from the course after she had enrolled.
   c. He'd been on a mountain climbing expedition before he wrote the article.
   d. Although I'd been terrified, I felt quite brave the next morning.

Think about the two events in each sentence.

1. IDENTIFY Underline the clause that expresses the earlier event.
2. RECOGNIZE What verb form is in the clause that expresses the earlier event?
3. RECOGNIZE What verb form is in the clause that expresses the later event?

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to check them.

Meaning and Use Notes

Order of Events in the Past

1A The past perfect expresses the relationship in time between two past events. It shows that one action or state occurred before another action or state in the past. The past perfect expresses the first (or earlier) event. The simple past often expresses the second (or later) event.

**Past Perfect (1st Event)**
I had just completed the exam.

**Simple Past (2nd Event)**
I felt so relieved.

1B The past time can be recent or distant.

**Recent Time**
Miguel called me this morning, but I wasn’t there. I'd gone to a meeting.

**Distant Time**
Miguel wrote me last year, but I never got the letter. I’d moved away.
The Past Perfect and Past Time Clauses

2A The past perfect is often used in sentences containing past time clauses. The past perfect is used to indicate the first event. The simple past is used to indicate the second event. Before, by the time, when, until, and after introduce the time clause.

**Past Perfect (1st Event)**  **Simple Past (2nd Event)**
The thief **had escaped** before I called the police.
We **had calmed** down by the time the police **came**.
He **had been** upstairs when we **came** home.
We **hadn’t noticed** until we **heard** the footsteps.
**After** I **had called** the police, we **realized** the thief was gone.

2B In sentences with before, after, by the time, and until, the past perfect is sometimes replaced by the simple past with no difference in meaning. This is especially common with before and after.

**Past Perfect and Simple Past**  **Simple Past Only**
I’d **gone** inside before I **took off** my coat. = I **went** inside before I **took off** my coat.
After I’d **gone** inside, I **took off** my coat. = After I **went** inside, I **took off** my coat.

Expressions Used with the Past Perfect

3A The past perfect is often used with the same adverbs and prepositions that are used with the present perfect: already, yet, still, ever, never, for, since, and just. These expressions help to clarify the sequence of past events.

By lunchtime, we **had already discussed** the new budget and written a report. We **hadn’t written** the new vacation policy **yet**.

I **had lived** in Texas **for 12 years** before I moved to California.

A: **Had** she **ever traveled** abroad before she went to college?
B: No, she’d **never left** her hometown.

3B *By* + a time can be used with the past perfect to express the later time in the sentence.

We **had finished** by **then**.
**By noon**, we **had hiked** two miles.
C1 Listening for Meaning and Use

Listen to the sentences. For each pair of past events below, choose the event that happened first.

1. a. The patient's condition improved.  
   b. The doctor came.
2. a. We got to the airport.  
   b. The plane landed.
3. a. I entered the building.  
   b. I took off my hat.
4. a. The emergency crew arrived.  
   b. The building collapsed.
5. a. I saw Betty.  
   b. She heard the news.
6. a. He became vice president.  
   b. He worked hard.
7. a. I called my mother.  
   b. I spoke to my sister.
8. a. She hurt her wrist.  
   b. She went to work.

C2 Expressing the Order of Past Events

Read the pairs of sentences and order the events. Number the first event with a 1 and the second with a 2. Then make a sentence with the word(s) in parentheses that includes both events. Use the past perfect and the simple past where appropriate.

1. 2. The sink overflowed.  
   (after) The sink overflowed after I had left the water running.
1. I left the water running.
2. He graded the exam.  
   (before) He read the answers carefully.
3. They were married for five years.  
   (when) They had a child.
4. The car collided with a truck.  
   (after) Someone called the police.
5. The doctor said she was very healthy.  
   (until) She was worried.
6. She slept for ten hours.  
   (by the time) I decided to wake her up.
C3 Discussing Previous Accomplishments

Work with a partner. Read each situation and look at the picture. Tell what things had been done already and what had not been done yet. Use the expressions in parentheses and the past perfect with already and not ... yet.

1. Sonia was hoping to move into her new apartment a few days early. Yesterday she went to see if it was ready yet.
   (paint the apartment) They had already painted the apartment.
   (clean the carpet) They hadn't cleaned the carpet yet.
   (fix the window)
   (repair the lock)

2. Martin checked to see if he had completed the requirements for graduation.
   (complete the English requirement)
   (take the math courses)
   (pass the writing test)
   Requirements for high school graduation:
   ✔ 3 Math courses
   ✔ 4 English courses
   Writing test

3. Your cousin has been looking for a job for a month. You spoke to her a few days ago.
   (look at the classified ads)
   (go to an employment agency)
   (write her résumé)

HELP WANTED
Attorney for international law firm
Minimum 10 years experience necessary
call 555-6324
C4 Describing New Experiences

A. These situations describe new experiences. Use the phrases below and the past perfect with never and before to describe the things that the people had never done before. Then add one of your own ideas.

1. Brian and Jo Ann have just had their first child.
   a. diaper a baby They had never diapered a baby before.
   b. bathe a baby ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

2. Irina started college last fall.
   a. live on her own ________________________________
   b. sleep in a dormitory ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

3. Dominick got his first summer job at a supermarket.
   a. use an electronic cash register ________________________________
   b. get a paycheck ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

4. Nora took her first driving lesson.
   a. drive a car ________________________________
   b. be so scared ________________________________
   c. ________________________________

B. Think of something you did for the first time. Describe the aspects of the experience that were new to you. Write four sentences using the past perfect and never. Then tell your class about your new experience.

New Experience: I decided to go to Europe for my summer vacation.

1. I had never flown on a plane before.

2. ________________________________

3. ________________________________

4. ________________________________
The Past Perfect Continuous

Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read the sentences and complete the task below.

a. We arrived at 9:30 P.M. Julia had been eating her dinner. (Dinner was just ending.)

b. We arrived at 9:30 P.M. Julia had eaten her dinner. (Dinner was over.)

ORGANIZE Match each illustration to the sentence that best describes it.

B. Discuss your answers with the class and read the Meaning and Use Notes to check them.

Meaning and Use Notes

Order of Events in the Past with Continuing Actions

1A Similar to the past perfect, the past perfect continuous shows that one action occurred before another action or state in the past. However, the past perfect continuous emphasizes that the first event was ongoing, and continued up to or just before the second event.

**Past Perfect Continuous (1st Event)**
Keiko had been studying all night.

**Simple Past (2nd Event)**
She was exhausted at breakfast.

1B *For* and *since* show how long a situation lasted before the second past event.

**Simple Past (2nd Event)**
Marie left her office at 6:00 P.M.

**Past Perfect Continuous (1st Event)**
She’d been working since 8:00 A.M.

(Continued on page 136)
The past perfect continuous is often used in sentences containing past time clauses.

**Past Perfect Continuous (1st Event)**
Marie had been working for nine and a half hours

**Simple Past (2nd Event)**
by the time she left her office.

### Contrasting the Past Perfect and the Past Perfect Continuous

#### 2A
Certain common verbs can be used with the past perfect and past perfect continuous with little or no difference in meaning. Remember, though, that using the continuous can show a more intense or emotional situation.

**Past Perfect**
Mr. Ortiz had lived there since 1960.
I'd waited for an hour.

**Past Perfect Continuous**
Mr. Ortiz had been living there since 1960.
I'd been waiting for an hour! I was so angry.

#### 2B
The past perfect can express a completed action that may or may not have occurred recently. In contrast, the past perfect continuous suggests that an action was continuing up to or ended just before a specific time in the past.

**Past Perfect**
Hiro had watered the garden before I arrived. (Hiro may have watered it a few minutes or many hours before I arrived.)

**Past Perfect Continuous**
Hiro had been watering the garden before I arrived. (Hiro watered the garden a few minutes before I arrived.)

A sentence with the past perfect continuous usually does not tell how many times an action is repeated.

**Past Perfect**
I'd read it three times before.

**Past Perfect Continuous**
X I'd been reading it three times before. (Incorrect)

### Adding Background Information to a Sentence

#### 3
Both the past perfect continuous and the past perfect are often used to provide background information about earlier events. They are used to give reasons with *because* and express contrasts with *although* or *even though*. They are also used to draw conclusions.

**Reasons**
She looked very tired  
*because* she had been studying all night.

*because* she had studied all night.
Contrasts
She looked very tired although she had been sleeping for 12 hours.
even though she had slept for 12 hours.

Conclusions
I realized that he had been criticizing my work.
he had just criticized my work.

D1 Listening for Meaning and Use

Listen to the two events in each sentence. Check (✓) Just Before if the context makes it clear that the first event happened right before the second. Check (✓) Unclear if the context does not specify how close together in time the two events were.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JUST BEFORE</th>
<th>UNCLEAR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
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<td>2.</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.</td>
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<td>5.</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

D2 Talking About Continuing Past Actions

Write two different sentences that tell how long each situation lasted. Use the past perfect continuous with for and since and simple past time clauses with when.

1. Elena worked from 2006 to 2008. Then she went back to school.
   When Elena went back to school, she had been working for two years.
   When Elena went back to school in 2008, she had been working since 2006.

2. Brigitte began to work at C & M in 2009. Her husband joined the company in 2011.

3. The chicken started baking at 5:30. The electricity went off at 5:45.

4. Lisa went to sleep at 11:00 P.M. The phone woke her up at 2:00 A.M.


6. Kate studied from 2005 to 2011. She graduated from medical school in 2011.

D3 Expressing Reasons and Results

A. Work with a partner. Complete each sentence with a because clause in the past perfect or the past perfect continuous. Then write one more main clause in the simple past and ask your partner to complete it using because.

1. He looked very tired because he had been sleeping poorly.
2. The student was expelled from school
3. She quit her job
4. 

B. Now complete each sentence with a main clause in the simple past. Then write one more because clause and ask your partner to complete it with a main clause.

1. He didn't hear the doorbell because he had been listening to music.
2. ____________________________ because we had been exercising.
3. Because she hadn't listened to her parents, ____________________________
4. ____________________________

D4 Expressing Contrasts

A. Complete each sentence with a clause using although or even though in the past perfect or the past perfect continuous.

1. I passed the exam although I hadn't studied.
2. She was able to answer the question
3. ____________________________ everyone became sick.
4. ____________________________ he wanted to quit his job.

B. Complete each sentence with a main clause in the simple past.

1. Even though I had been calling for days, she never called me back.
2. ____________________________ although I had gone grocery shopping two days before.
3. Although we had been good friends, ____________________________
4. Even though I had been trying as hard as I could, ____________________________
Adding Background Information in Longer Discourse

Both the past perfect and the past perfect continuous are often used in a story to give details and background information about an earlier past time. These verb forms usually appear near the beginning of the story. Then the story often continues in the simple past.

We finally landed in London at 9:30 A.M. We had been traveling for thirteen hours and the whole family was exhausted and cranky, especially me. The seat had been uncomfortable, and I hadn’t slept at all. I tried not to be too unpleasant, but it was difficult because nothing seemed to be going right. When we got to the baggage claim area, two suitcases came through quickly, but the other two were missing...

D5 Adding Background Information

A. Read each introductory statement. Then write two or three past perfect or past perfect continuous sentences that provide background information.

1. I was in my favorite restaurant that Sunday afternoon.
   
   We had gathered for a family reunion in honor of my parents’ 25th wedding anniversary. My brother and I had been planning this event for months.

2. I remember the day I moved here.

3. I’ll never forget that afternoon. We were stuck in heavy traffic on a bridge.

4. I entered my apartment and immediately felt that something was strange.

B. Write a paragraph. Choose one of the items in part A as the beginning of your paragraph. Add some background information in the past perfect or the past perfect continuous. Then complete the paragraph using the simple past to explain more about what happened in the first sentence.

I was in my favorite restaurant that Sunday afternoon. We had gathered for a family reunion in honor of my parents’ 25th wedding anniversary. My brother and I had been planning this event for months. We had been emailing each other almost daily with plans, menus, and guest lists. As they had been doing for 25 years, my parents arrived exactly on time. When they saw everyone...
Think Critically About Meaning and Use

A. Read each sentence and the statements that follow. Write T if the statement is true, F if it is false, or ? if you do not have enough information to decide.

1. After he had eaten a sandwich, he ate a salad.
   - F a. He ate the salad first. Then he ate the sandwich.
   - F b. He ate the salad and sandwich together.

2. He had left before the play ended.
   - ___ a. The play ended. Then he left.
   - ___ b. He was gone by the end of the play.

3. He had known her for many years when they started to work together.
   - ___ a. He met her at work.
   - ___ b. He knew her a long time.

4. Tom didn’t lose weight until he went on a diet.
   - ___ a. Tom didn’t lose weight.
   - ___ b. Tom went on a diet.

5. It was lunchtime. I looked out the window, and I saw that it had rained.
   - ___ a. It had rained just before I looked out the window.
   - ___ b. I looked out the window after the rain stopped.

6. He left his job because he had found a better one.
   - ___ a. He left his job. Then he looked for a better job.
   - ___ b. He left his job after he found another job.

7. The hospital didn’t lose power, although there had been a power failure in the city.
   - ___ a. The hospital had a power failure.
   - ___ b. The city lost power.

8. The two men had been working on a project together when I met them.
   - ___ a. They worked together before I met them.
   - ___ b. They finished the project.
B. Discuss the questions in small groups.

1. **Predict** In sentence 4, if we change *until* to *when*, how does it affect the answers to statements a and b?

2. **Predict** In sentence 8, if we change *had been working* to *had worked*, how does it affect the answers to statements a and b?

**Edit**

Find the errors in these paragraphs and correct them, using either the simple past or the present perfect.

In 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norkay *had been* the first climbers to reach the top of Mount Everest. Since then, many people *had* climbed Mount Everest, especially in recent years. Before 1953, no human *had* stood on top of the world’s highest peak, although some *had* tried. George Mallory and Sandy Irvine, for example, *had* died almost 30 years earlier on a perilous path along the North Ridge.

Since 1953, many more people *had* set world records. In 1975, Junko Tabei of Japan *had become* the first woman on a mountaineering team to reach the top. In 1980, Reinhold Messner of Italy *had become* the first person to make the climb to the top alone, without other people and without oxygen. In 1995, Alison Hargreaves of Scotland *had duplicated* Messner’s triumph. She *became* the first woman to climb Mount Everest solo and *without* oxygen.

Each climber faces frigid winds, storms, avalanches, and most dangerous of all, the serious effects of the high altitude on the heart, lungs, and brain. So why *had* many hundreds of people tried to climb Mount Everest in recent years? The only way to explain these numbers is to understand that the climb up Mount Everest represents the ultimate challenge of reaching the “top of the world.”
Write

Write an essay about a major event in a famous person's career. Use the past perfect, past perfect continuous, and time clauses to provide background.

1. **BRAINSTORM** Think of a famous person and research his or her life in the library or on the Internet. Decide on the event you will focus on and make a timeline leading up to it. Use these categories to help you organize your ideas into paragraphs.
   - **Introduce the event:** What happened and when?
   - **Discuss background events leading to the event:** What had happened and what had the person been doing before?
   - **Describe and comment on the event:** What happened during the period of the event? What was its significance of the event? How did it affect the rest of the person's career?

2. **Write a First Draft** Before you write your first draft, read the checklist below and look at the example on page 126. Write your draft using the past perfect and the past perfect continuous.

3. **Edit** Read your work and check it against the checklist below. Circle grammar, spelling, and punctuation errors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DO I ...</th>
<th>YES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>organize my ideas into paragraphs?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use the simple past and past continuous to announce and describe the event?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use the past perfect for completed actions/states that occurred before another past action/state?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use the past perfect continuous for ongoing actions that continued up to or just before another past action/state?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>use time clauses and time expressions to clarify the order and duration of past events?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. **Peer Review** Work with a partner to help you decide how to fix your errors and improve the content. Use the checklist above.

5. **Rewrite Your Draft** Using the comments from your partner, write a final draft.

*On May 16, 1975, 26-year-old Junko Tabei of Japan became the first woman to reach the top of Mount Everest. Junko had been attracted to mountain climbing since she climbed up Mount Nasu on a school trip at the age of 10. By the time she graduated from university...*