

questions

What	Had had	I / you / we / they / she / he / it they	been been	waiting? doing?
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short answers

Yes,	I / you / we / they / she / he / it	had.
No,		hadn't.

USE

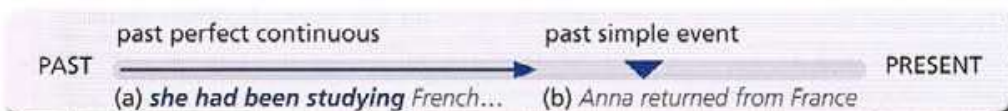
Use past perfect continuous

- in a past tense narrative, to describe a continuing action in a period of time before something else happened.

Anna **returned** from France, where she **had been studying** French.

- to explain a past situation, by describing the events happening before.

Both boys **were** wet and muddy. They **had been playing** football in the rain.



See also Unit 16, Indirect (Reported) Statements.

- 1 Read the following information about famous moments in history. Then underline the correct form. Only one verb in each paragraph is past perfect.

- A Columbus left Spain in August 1492 with three ships, to try and find a way to India by sailing west instead of east. When his ships a finally reached / had finally reached land on 12 October, he thought he was there, but the ships b actually arrived / had actually arrived in America instead.
- B Captain Robert Scott wanted to reach the South Pole first. He and his companions finally arrived there on 1 January 1912 after a terrible journey across the ice, but c found / had found a Norwegian flag. Unfortunately for Scott, Roald Amundsen d got / had got there on 14 December, 18 days earlier.

- C Leonardo painted his famous The Last Supper between 1495 and 1498, but the painting started to deteriorate within 50 years. The most common explanation for this used to be that Leonardo e used / had used the wrong kind of paint, but experts have always disagreed about this, and many believe that the damp in the wall is the cause of the damage. Between 1978 and 1999, experts f restored / had restored the painting, and the public can now see it again.

- 2 Complete the sentence with the past simple or past perfect simple form of the verb in brackets.

- a When I (try) tried to use my laptop, I realized the battery (run) _____ down.
- b I (turn) _____ the computer off, but forgot that I (not save) _____ my work.
- c I only remembered I (not pay) _____ the bill when my Internet connection (stop) _____ working.
- d When I (receive) _____ the e-mail, I couldn't understand who (send) _____ it.
- e When I (check) _____ the instructions, I understood what I (do) _____.
- f I knew I (receive) _____ a virus when I (run) _____ the anti-virus program.
- g As soon as I (download) _____ the document, I knew I (make) _____ a mistake.
- h I could see what (go) _____ wrong as soon as I (look) _____ inside the printer.
- i I knew I (press) _____ the wrong key when nothing (happen) _____.
- j When the screen (go) _____ blank, I couldn't understand how it (happen) _____.

5 Read the story of Archimedes and his bath. Then complete the text with the correct form of the verb in brackets.



Archimedes, the Greek mathematician, is probably most famous for the story of King Hieron II of Syracuse and the gold crown. The king **a** (want) *wanted* to give a gold crown as a gift to the gods, and **b** (give) *gave* a carefully weighed amount of gold to a goldsmith. The man **c** (produce) *produced* a beautiful crown, but the king was worried that the **d** (craftsman) *craftsman* (not use) *did not use* all the gold to make the crown. Dishonest craftsmen often **e** (mix) *mixed* gold with silver, which was cheaper, but the king could not find a way of proving that the man

f (do) *did* this. He **g** (ask) *asked* Archimedes to solve the problem. Archimedes **h** (know) *knew* that gold and silver have different **densities**. The problem was that nobody could calculate the **mass** of an object like a crown. While he **i** (climb) *climbed* into the bath, he decided to go to the public baths to relax. While he **j** (climb) *climbed* over the side of the bath, and he **k** (notice) *noticed* some water on the floor. It **l** (spill) *spilled* over the side of the bath, and he **m** (realize) *realized* that he **n** (solve) *solved* the problem by accident. The total amount of water that **o** (spill) *spilled* out of the bath must be the same as the **volume** of his body. He could use a piece of pure gold and calculate its volume, and then test the crown and see if it was the same. According to the story, he **p** (jump) *jumped* straight out of the bath and **q** (run) *ran* down the street calling 'Eureka – I've found it.' The goldsmith soon **r** (admit) *admitted* that he **s** (cheat) *cheated* the king, and was punished. Archimedes **t** (discover) *discovered* a principle of buoyancy.

GLOSSARY

6 Read the sentences about two mountain climbers. Then complete the sentence with the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous form of the verb in brackets.

- The two climbers stopped to rest. They (climb) *had been climbing* for hours and were exhausted. Things were not looking good.
- They were very cold, because it (snow) *was snowing* heavily since mid-morning, and one of them (hurt) *had hurt* his ankle.
- They (look) *had looked* for shelter for the past two hours, because they realized that the weather was going to get worse.
- They (already phone) *had already phoned* the rescue centre for help.
- They (also leave) *had also left* details of their planned route at the village where they stayed the night.

- They were experienced climbers and they (prepare) *had prepared* carefully for their trip. They knew there was a cave halfway up the mountain.
- They spent a long time searching for the cave before they realized that they (head) *had headed* in the wrong direction.
- Then the snow stopped, and they could see the dark entrance of the cave nearby.
- Luckily they (bring) *had brought* warm clothes and plenty of food with them, and they waited safely in the cave.

EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Read the sentences from Exercise 6 again. Make sure you have checked the answers to this exercise. Translate the story into your language.

Need more practice? Go to the Review on page 192.