

**The Past Perfect and the Past Perfect Continuous**

**1. Read the sentences and deduce the different uses of the Past Perfect/Past Perfect Continuous**

I felt really tired when I took the train to work yesterday because Sarah and I had been to a party the evening before.

I went to the box office at lunch-time, but they had already sold all the tickets.

By 1960 most of Britain's old colonies had become independent.

Rule of use.....

The train had just left when I arrived at the station.

She had just left the room when the police arrived.

Rule of use.....

Bill was in uniform when I met him. He had been a soldier for ten years/since he was seventeen, and planned to stay in the army till he was thirty.

Peter, who had waited for an hour/since ten o'clock, was very angry with his sister when she eventually turned up.

He had served in the army for ten years; then he retired and married. His children were now at school.

Rule of use.....

I had just poured myself a glass of beer when the phone rang. When I came back from answering it the glass was empty. Somebody had drunk the beer or thrown it away.

He met her in Paris in 1977. He had last seen her ten years before. Her hair had been grey then; now it was white.

Rule of use.....

When he had shut the window we opened the door of the cage. (We waited for the window to be quite shut before opening the cage.)

When she had sung her song she sat down. ('When she sang her song she sat down' might give the impression that she sang seated.)

When he had seen all the pictures he said he was ready to leave. (When he had finished looking at them . . .)

Rule of use.....

He refused to go till he had seen all the pictures.

He did not wait till we had finished our meal.

Before we had finished our meal he ordered us back to work.

Before we had walked ten miles he complained of sore feet.

Rule of use.....

After the will had been read there were angry exclamations.

Rule of use.....

He said, 'I've been in England for ten years' = He said that he had been in England for ten years. He said, 'When you 've worked for a year you 'll get a rise' = He said that when I'd worked for a year I'd get a rise.

Rule of use.....

It was six o'clock and he was tired because he had been working since dawn.

He had been repairing the engine

Rule of use.....

**2. Deduce the form of the past perfect/past perfect continuous in the affirmative, negative and interrogative forms**

Affirmative:

Negative:

Interrogative:

### PRACTICE

#### 1. Put the verbs into the correct tenses (past, past continuous, past perfect)

A young man (**walk**) into a supermarket in Southampton and (**put**) a few items of food in a basket. He (**choose**) a time when not many people (**shop**) in the store. He (**find**) a checkout where no one else (**wait**). When the cashier (**check**) the goods, the man (**give**) her a £10 note. When she opened the till, the man quickly (**snatch**) all the money from it and (**run**) out of the store before she (**realize**) what (**happen**). At the time the security guard (**stand**) at the other end of the store. When staff (**check**) the records in the till, they (**find**) that the thief (**take**) only £4.37. As he (**leave**) the £10 note behind, the operation (**cost**) him £5.63.

#### 2. Put the verbs in the correct tenses (past simple, continuous and perfect )

Daniel is telling the story of how he forgot his passport. Put the verbs into the correct form.  
(►) / (happened (it / happen) last August at the airport. A few weeks before, a group of us  
(1)..... (decide) to go to Greece together for a holiday. (2)..... (we / wait) in the queue at passport control when suddenly (3)..... (I / realize) that  
(4)..... (I / forget) my passport. (5)..... (it / be) quite a shock.  
(6)..... (I / hurry) to a phone and (7)..... (ring) my parents.  
(8)..... (they / work) in the garden, but luckily my mother  
(9)..... (hear) the phone. (10)..... (they / find) the passport and immediately (11)..... (drive) to the airport with it.  
(12)..... (I / meet) them at the information desk. (13)..... (we / have) no time to talk, but (14)..... (I / say) goodbye to them earlier that morning. (15)..... (I / run) all the way to the plane. I was just in time. When (16)..... (I / get) there, the passengers (17)..... (sit) in their seats ready for take-off. When (18) (they/see) me, everyone (19)..... (start) clapping.

#### 3. Put in the correct form of the verbs.

- Tom could hear shouts from the flat next door. His neighbors were arguing (argue) again.
- 1 Emma went into the sitting-room. It was empty, but the television was still on. Someone.....(watch) it.
- 2 I ..... (play) tennis, so I had a shower. I was annoyed because I..... (not win) a single game.
- 3 The walkers finally arrived at their destination. They ..... (walk) all day, and they certainly needed a rest. They ..... (walk) thirty miles.
- 4 When I saw Nick last week, he said he ..... (stop) smoking. But when I saw him two days later, he..... (smoke) a cigarette. He looked rather ashamed.
- 5 I really must go and see the dentist. One of my teeth ..... (ache) for weeks.