PRACTICAL ENGLISH FOR PROFESSIONALS

LESSON 23

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE VS. PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

PAST PERFECT SIMPLE (HAD + PAST PARTICIPLE)	
The **past perfect** refers to an action that was completed prior to another action that took place in the <u>past</u>.	- He **had learned** Spanish before he <u>went</u> to Spain. - President Lincoln **had attended** the theatre before <u>his assassination in 1865</u>. - They **had had** lunch when I <u>arrived</u>. - She <u>passed</u> the exam because she **had worked** very hard.
PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS (HAD BEEN + VERB-ING)	
We use the **past perfect continuous** to show that something started in the past and continued up until <u>another action stopped it</u>.	We **had been playing** soccer when <u>the accident occurred.</u>
We use the **past perfect continuous** to show that something started in the past and continued <u>up until another time in the past</u>. In this case we use expressions of duration such as: - for an hour - for three years	I **had been living** in that small town for three years before <u>I moved to New York.</u>
We use the **Past Perfect Continuous** before another action in the past to show cause and effect.	I <u>was so tired</u>. I **had been revising my lessons** for hours.

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Complete the sentences below by putting the verb in brackets in the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

1. It was a relief to find the documents. I (look) _____ for them all afternoon.
2. He was dismissed, even though, in his opinion, he (not/do) _____ anything wrong.
3. It was not the first time I'd met him. We (meet) _____ many times before.
4. He called me at eleven in the evening to tell me that he (find/finally) _____ a solution.
5. When he (finish) _____ his speech, he waited for the reaction of the audience. But no one said a word.
6. By the time I came back from my business trip, a lot of things (changed) _____.
7. The doctor asked me how long I (have) _____ the symptoms.
8. It was more than a month before we realised what (happen) _____ to him.
9. We (work/already) _____ on this project for a month before we found a fundamental flaw.
10. The invoice (not/arrive/still) _____ by the end of the week so we sent them a strong reminder.