

18th June 2024

Language – Past Perfect Simple and Past Perfect Continuous

Look at these two sentences:

When Ms Demir **presented** on 3rd December, she **had** fully **recovered** from the surgery.

When Ms Demir **presented** on 3rd December, she **had been recovering** from the surgery for three days.

What differences do you notice in terms of language and meaning?

Past Perfect Simple had + third form (past participle)	Past Perfect Continuous had + been + verb + ing
Usually focuses on the completion of an action	Usually indicates that the action was still happening at the time of another past action OR Usually focuses on the duration of a past action which happened before another past action
Usually focuses an action that happened one time: "Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he had lost 2kg in weight."	Usually focus on an action that happened on a number on occasions: "Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he had been exercising every day."
We can use with both action and non-action verbs: "Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he had exercised the day before." "Mrs Iqbal reported that she had had the pain for the previous 5 days."	We can only use with action verbs: "Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he had been exercising every day." "Mrs Iqbal reported that she had been having the pain for the previous 5 days."

Look at these pairs of sentences.
Which sentence is **correct**? Why?

1. Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he had lost 2kg in weight.
2. Mr Greene visited the clinic last week and told me that he ~~had been losing~~ 2kg in weight.

1. Mrs Iqbal reported that she had had the pain for the previous 5 days.
2. Mrs Iqbal reported that she ~~had been having~~ the pain for the previous 5 days.

Which two tenses are being used in these sentences?
What's the difference in meaning?

Mr Valentino was vomiting when he arrived at the Emergency Room.

Mr Valentino had been vomiting when he arrived at the Emergency Room.

Put the verb in brackets in the past perfect simple or continuous.

If you think both are possible, use the continuous form.

1. I was really fed up because we _____ for hours. (queue)
2. She went to the police to report that someone _____ her bag. (steal)
3. It _____ all morning. The streets were wet, and there were puddles everywhere.
(rain)
4. She got to work late because she _____ her phone at home. (leave)
5. I almost didn't recognize Tony at the party. He _____ a lot since I last saw him.
(change)
6. The tourists' faces were very red. They _____ in the sun all morning and they
_____ any sun cream. (sit, not put on)
7. I could see from their expressions that my parents _____. (argue)
8. Jess had a bandage on her arm because she _____ off her bike that morning.
(fall)
9. I was amazed because I _____ such an enormous plane before. (never see)
10. How long _____ before you realized that you were lost? (walk)