Past perfect continuous or past continuous

If you do not include a duration such as "for five minutes," "for two weeks" or "since Friday," we normally choose the **Past Continuous** rather than the **Past Perfect Continuous**: He was tired because he **was exercising** so hard.

The Past Perfect Continuous emphasizes a duration of time before something in the past: He was tired because he **had been exercising** so hard.

**Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense:**

1. I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (wait)** in the office for more than two hours when the Boss finally arrived.
2. They **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (talk)** for over an hour before the other members arrived.

# \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you/watch) the match when I telephoned you?

1. She **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (work)** for that company for three years when it went out of business.
2. How long **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you/wait)** for John before he finally arrived?
3. Mike was longing to sit down because he **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stand)** all day at work.
4. What **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you/do)** yesterday at 8 p.m.?
5. David **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (teach)** at the international school for more than a year before he left forF rance.
6. How long **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (you/study** Italian before you moved there?
7. The footballers were tired because they **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (play)** for two hours.
8. Helen **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/do)** anything specialwhenwe arrived**.**
9. Sam put on a lot of weight because he **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (eat)** too much.
10. I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (have)** lunch when he entered the restaurant.
11. Florence failed the final test because she **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (not/revise)** enough.
12. While I **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (walk)** home last Monday I saw a terrible car accident.

KEY

1. I **had been waiting** in the office for more than two hours when the Boss finally arrived.
2. They **had been talking** for over an hour before the other members arrived.

# Were you watching the match when I telephoned you?

1. She **had been working** for that company for three years when it went out of business.
2. How long **had** you **been waiting** for John before he finally arrived?
3. Mike was longing to sit down because he **had been standing** all day at work.
4. What **were you doing** yesterday at 8 p.m.?
5. David **had been teaching** at the international school for more than a year before he left forF rance.
6. How long **had** you **been studying** Italian before you moved there?
7. The footballers were tired because they **had been playing** for two hours.
8. Helen **wasn’t doing** anything specialwhenwe arrived**.**
9. Sam put on a lot of weight because he **had been eating** too much.
10. I **was having** lunch when he entered the restaurant.
11. Florence failed the final test because she **had not revised** enough.
12. While I **was walking** home last Monday I saw a terrible car accident.