

Had Been Joining Answer Key

Sample Answers (students' wording may vary)

1. She **had been studying** for three hours before the exam began.
2. They **had been playing** soccer all afternoon when it started to rain.
3. I **had been cleaning** my room when my mom came home.
4. He **had been waiting** at the bus stop before the bus finally arrived.
5. The children **had been shouting** loudly when the teacher walked in.
6. We **had been working** on the project before the deadline was moved.
7. She **had been reading** the novel for days before she finished the last chapter.
8. They **had been traveling** for months before they decided to settle down.
9. I **had been typing** the report for two hours when my computer crashed.
10. He **had been practicing** the guitar all morning before his friends came over.

Teacher Notes

- Key structure: **Subject + had been + verb-ing + (time phrase) + before/when + event.**
- Accept flexible use of **before** or **when** (both correct depending on context).
- Encourage students to notice how the past perfect continuous explains the **background/ongoing action**, while the simple past describes the **interrupting or later event**.
- Extension idea: ask students to **create their own pairs** of simple sentences and swap with a partner to combine.