

Continuous Cleanup Answer Key

Corrected Versions

Paragraph 1: The Tired Student

Last night, Jenna **had been studying** for hours before the lights went out. She **had been reading** her notes and **had been writing** practice problems when the power failure happened. By the time the electricity returned, she **had been feeling** too tired to continue.

Paragraph 2: The Long Wait

We **had been standing** at the bus stop for almost an hour before it finally arrived. People **had been checking** their watches and **had been complaining** loudly. Some **had been talking** on the phone while others **had been pacing** back and forth.

Paragraph 3: The Busy Kitchen

Tom **had been cooking** all afternoon because guests suddenly showed up. He **had been chopping** vegetables, **had been boiling** pasta, and **had been stirring** the sauce when the doorbell rang. His friends **had been wondering** why he looked so tired.

Teacher Notes

- Students should focus on spotting **non-past-perfect-continuous verbs** and shifting them into the **had been + verb-ing** structure.
- These passages blend multiple verbs so learners must think critically about **which ones are ongoing actions** that happened **before another past event**.
- Encourage students to underline each corrected verb to reinforce form recognition.
- Extension: Ask students to write their own "error hunt" paragraph for a partner to correct.