Chapter 8-4
Past Perfect Continuous Tense 過去完成進行時態
Additional Notes

1. Past Perfect Continuous Tense: Structure 🟡

1) Positive Sentences

Structure: **Subject** + **had been** + **verb-ing**

Examples:

- **I had been studying** for two hours before dinner.
- **You had been waiting** for the bus for thirty minutes.
- **We had been collecting** stamps before the competition began.
- **They had been working** on the project all week.
- **He had been repairing** his bicycle before school started.
- **She had been serving** customers since morning.
- **It had been raining** for several days before the sunshine［陽光］appeared.

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2) Negative Sentences

Structure: **Subject** + **had not (hadn't) been** + **verb-ing**

Examples:

- **I hadn't been sleeping** well before the exam.
- **They hadn't been practicing** regularly before the match.
- **He hadn't been checking** his email before noon［午時］.
- **She hadn't been studying** English before joining the course.
- **We hadn't been preparing** for the meeting.

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3) Question Sentences

Structure: **Had** + **Subject** + **been** + **verb-ing** + **?**

Examples:

- **Had you been waiting** long before the bus arrived?
- **Had they been discussing** the problem before the meeting?
- **Had he been repairing** the bicycle before school?
- **Had she been working** there for many years?
- **Had we been collecting** enough information before making the decision?

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2. When Do We Use the Past Perfect Continuous? 🟡

1) An action that continued up to a point in the past 一個動作在過去持續進行，直到過去某一個時間點或另一個過去動作發生為止

Examples:
- I **had been reading** for an hour before I went to bed.
- They **had been playing** football before it started raining.
- She **had been living** in London for three years before she moved away.

2) To emphasise duration［時長］

Examples:
- He was tired because he **had been working** all day.
- The students were excited because they **had been preparing** for the event for weeks.
- We were hungry because we **had been walking** for hours.

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3. Signal Words 時間提示詞 🟡

Common signal words:
- **for** (for two hours, for a long time)
- **since** (since Monday, since morning)
- **before**
- **all**［整個］**day**
- **all week**
- **all morning**

Examples:
- She **had been studying** English **for** five years before university.
- We **had been waiting since** 8:00 a.m.
- They **had been working all day** before they went home.

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4. Comparison

Tense	Structure	Example
Past Perfect	had + past participle	She had finished her homework before dinner.
Past Perfect Continuous	had been + verb-ing	She had been doing her homework for two hours before dinner.

- **Past Perfect** focuses on the **completion** of an action. ［動作已經完成］
- **Past Perfect Continuous** focuses on the **duration** or **ongoing nature of an action before another past event**. ［時長、動作持續性］

Examples
- I **had finished** the report before noon. (completed)

- I **had been writing** the report for three hours before noon. (duration)
- They **had cleaned** the room before the guests arrived. (completed)
- They **had been cleaning** the room for an hour before the guests arrived. (ongoing in the past)

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5. Quick Comparison

- **Past Simple:** I **finished** my homework at 8 p.m.
  ［**八點時，完成**作業］
- **Past Continuous:** I **was doing** my homework at 8 p.m.
  ［**八點時，正在寫**作業］
- **Past Perfect:** I **had finished** my homework before 8 p.m.
  ［**八點前，已經完成**作業］
- **Past Perfect Continuous:** I **had been doing** my homework **for two hours** before 8 p.m.
  ［**八點前，已經持續寫**作業**兩個小時**］