

The Past Perfect Continuous Exercise

He had been eating garlic

A Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets using the **past perfect continuous** or the **past perfect simple**.

- 1 When the student revolution came, I there for 6 months. (work)
- 2 Before Jim finally decided to go to Thailand, he about it for months. (think)
- 3 They all the chocolate cake by the time Michael got to the party. (eat)
- 4 I Scarlett Johansson on three previous occasions. Lucky me! (met)
- 5 The forensic evidence shows that he his nose just before he was murdered. (pick)
- 6 When the doctor told him his liver was seriously bad, he hamburgers for a month. (eat)
- 7 Prior to the explosion, the fat man seven large chocolate cakes. (eat)
- 8 When they cancelled the flight to Alicante, the storm all afternoon with no sign of abating. (rage)

B Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets using the **past perfect continuous** or the **past continuous**.

- 1 When I asked Carlos if he wanted to go out, he said he couldn't because he an assignment. (finish)
- 2 Scarlett came into the room panting. She round the park. (jog)
- 3 Scarlett wasn't in. She around the park. (jog)
- 4 I a bath when I suddenly had a great idea. (have)
- 5 He told me he seriously about finding another job soon. (think)
- 6 He about finding a new job for about a year before he finally got round to it. He's happy now. (think)
- 7 It was obvious from her outrageous behaviour that (drink)
- 8 I a latte in the Café New York, when I saw a famous actor walk past the window. (drink)



Answers**A**

- 1 When the student revolution came, I had been working there for 6 months.
- 2 Before Jim finally decided to go to Thailand, he had been thinking about it for months.
- 3 They had eaten all the chocolate cake by the time Michael got to the party.
- 4 I had met Scarlett Johansson on three previous occasions. Lucky me!
- 5 The forensic evidence shows that he had been picking his nose just before he was murdered.
- 6 When the doctor told him his liver was seriously bad, he had been eating hamburgers for a month.
- 7 Prior to the explosion, the fat man had eaten seven large chocolate cakes.
- 8 When they cancelled the flight to Alicante, the storm had been raging all afternoon with no sign of abating.

B

- 1 When I asked Carlos if he wanted to go out, he said he couldn't because he was finishing an assignment.
- 2 Scarlett came into the room panting. She had been jogging round the park.
- 3 Scarlett wasn't in. She was jogging around the park.
- 4 I was having a bath when I suddenly had a great idea.
- 5 He told me he was seriously thinking about finding another job soon.
- 6 He had thinking about finding a new job for about a year before he finally got round to it. He's happy now.
- 7 It was obvious from her outrageous behaviour that she had been drinking.
- 8 I was drinking a latte in the Café New York, when I saw a famous actor walk past the window.

