

Worksheet 5

Past perfect simple and continuous

1a Complete the grammar rules with the words in the box.

been had

- 1 We make the past perfect simple with _____ + past participle.
- 2 We make the past perfect continuous with had + _____ + present participle.

1b Match the rules with the examples below.

Example 1: I had been teaching for many years.

Example 2: I started writing after I had finished my exams.

2 Read the text about Jay White. Underline all the examples of the past perfect simple and **circle** all the examples of the past perfect continuous.

Jay White had always wanted to be a writer. He wrote his first story when he was five and sent it in to a competition – it won! After he had won the competition he started writing every day. His first book was published in 1979 when he was only 12. "I'd been writing for seven years but I was still really excited when my first book came out."

Since then he has written more than thirty books. Last year he entered another competition. He chose to enter a book he had written when he was only nine. Why did he choose this particular book? "I'd been thinking about this story for a long time. Although I was only nine when I wrote it I thought it was one of the best stories I had ever created."

We all wish Jay the best of luck in the competition.

3 Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 I *didn't understand* / *hadn't understood* what was happening because I *didn't listen* / *hadn't been listening*.
- 2 I *didn't pay attention* / *hadn't been paying attention* in class so I *got* / *had got* all the answers wrong in the test today.
- 3 She *left* / *had left* by the time we *arrived* / *had arrived*.
- 4 She *was* / *had been upset* when we arrived because I *forgot* / *had forgotten* to tell her we'd be late.
- 5 He *waited* / *had been waiting* for three years when she finally *said* / *had said* she would marry him.

4 Complete the sentences using the past perfect simple or past perfect continuous.

- 1 By the time he was 29 he _____ (write) ten books.
- 2 I _____ (enter) competitions for years before I won.
- 3 She _____ never _____ (read) a play by Shakespeare until she went to university.
- 4 I _____ (think) of what to write when suddenly I had a great idea for a story.
- 5 Before I was fifteen I _____ not _____ (enjoy) reading.
- 6 It was New Year's Day and it _____ (snow) for about twelve hours.