**Past Tense** is the form of a verb that expresses what happened in the past.

**Past Perfect Tense** is the form of a verb that expresses an action completed before a particular point in the past, formed in English with ‘**had + V3**’.

**Past Perfect Continuous Tense** is the form of a verb that expresses an action that had been going on right up until the time we are referring to and was still continuing or had stopped shortly before the time we are referring to. i, formed in English with ‘**had been + V+ing**’.
Past Perfect (Simple) and Past Perfect Continuous

- We use the **Past Perfect (Simple)** to talk about an action in the past which happened before another past action.

  e.g. When we got to the cinema, the film **had started**.
      Stuart looked very different. He **had grown** on a beard.

- We use the **Past Perfect Continuous** to talk about a continuous action in the past that had been going on right up until the time we are referring to and was still continuing or had stopped shortly before the time we are referring to.

  e.g. When we got to the party, our friends **had been dancing** for a long time. (and they were still dancing).
      I **had been studying** for over four hours. (before I stopped to take a break)
      When the boys came into the room, their clothes were dirty, their hair was untidy and one of them had a black eye. They **had been fighting**.

- The **Past Perfect Passive** is used, as with other passive tenses, when we do not know who did the action, or else it is not important who did it.

  e.g. When I got to the ticket office, all the tickets **had been sold**.
      The street cleaners spent hours cleaning up the litter that **had been thrown** on the ground.
A. Choose the correct answers, a or b.
1. I didn’t know you __________ a new laptop.
   a) had bought
   b) had been buying
2. I was late because I _________ for my glasses.
   a) had looked for
   b) had been looking
3. Max was very rude to Josh considering he ___________ for a few days.
   a) had only known him
   b) had only been knowing
4. We ___________ the house all day when Tom called round.
   a) had cleaned
   b) had been cleaning
5. I heard that Mike ____________ his leg.
   a) had broken
   b) had been breaking

B. Rewrite the sentences using the Past Perfect passive.

The party was over.
1. The guests had eaten all the food.
   ________________________________.
2. The guests had finished all the soft drinks.
   ________________________________.
3. The guests had listened to Coldplay five times!
   ________________________________.
4. The guests had broken two chairs.
   ________________________________.
5. The guests had taken lots of photographs.
   ________________________________.
C. Complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the verbs in brackets: Past Perfect Simple or Past Perfect Continuous.

1. It ___________ (rain) for hours when the sun finally came out.
2. I left home before I realized I ___________ (forget) my mobile phone.
3. Julia ________ (already find) somewhere to live when Rob offered her a room.
4. Did you know that Harry _______________ (change) his plans?
5. Why did no one tell me that my computer _______________ (crash)?
6. Alice ________ (have) such a bad day that she decided to have an early night.
7. Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining but the ground was very wet. It ____________ (rain).
8. She was very annoyed. She __________ (wait) for hours before the bus arrived.
9. When we got there, we saw that the town ________ (destroy) by the tornado.
10. I was shocked when I saw that my motorcycle ____________ (steal).
11. Although the ship ____________ (hit) by the bad storm, it managed to arrive on time.
12. After I _______________ (wait) for one hour, I finally saw the dentist.
13. I was late for school. When I arrived, the teacher __________ (come) into the class.
14. After he _______________ (finish) his work, he directly went home.
15. I was sure that the boy ______________ (run). When I met him, he was panting.

D. Put the verbs in brackets in the Past Simple, Past Continuous, Past Perfect or Past Perfect Continuous.

1. When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full. They _______________ (eat).
2. When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty but their stomachs were full. They ________________ (eat).
3. When I arrived, Kate ____________ (wait) for me. She was annoyed with me because I was late and she _______________ (wait) for a long time.
4. When I got home, Tom was sitting in front of the TV. He has just turned it off. He _______________ (watch) a film.
5. Jim was on his hands and knees on the floor. He ___________ (look) for his contact lenses.
6. I was sad when I sold my car. I _______________ (have) it for a very long time.
7. Yesterday I ____________ (go) to my daughter’s dance recital. I ____________ (be, never) in a dance recital before. I ____________ (not take) dancing lessons when I ____________ (be) a child. While my daughter ____________ (dance) on the stage, I ____________ (take) some photos of her.

8. A: I ____________ (see) you in the school play last night. You ____________ (do) a terrific acting job. ______________ (you/ act/ ever) in a play before this one?
B: Yes. I ____________ (start) acting when I was in elementary school.

9. Last year, I ____________ (go) mountain climbing for the first time. It ____________ (be) exciting and terrifying at the same time. We ____________ (move) slowly and carefully, and it ____________ (take) three days to get to the top. Imagine our surprise when we climbed onto the summit and found another group of climbers. They ____________ (arrive) several hours ahead of us. They ____________ (have) dinner and ____________ (listen) to Beethoven. We ____________ (laugh) and they ____________ (invite) us to join them. It ____________ (be) an unforgettable experience.

10. Yesterday at a restaurant, I ____________ (saw) a beautiful slim woman. She ____________ (enjoy) her lunch alone. It ____________ (turn out) that she was an old friend of mine. I ____________ (not see) her for years. At first, I ____________ (not recognize) her because she ____________ (lose) a great deal of weight.

E. Correct the sentences
1. I was pleased to see my old college friends at the conference last week as we didn’t see each other since we finished our course.
2. By the time we reached the theatre, the play ended and the audience was leaving.
3. At the end of their meal, they found they couldn’t pay the bill because they didn’t bring any money with them.
4. We were pleased that James had his laptop with him but we were less pleased when we discovered that he did not charge his battery.
5. When I came out of the cinema, I had found that a thief had taken my car radio.
6. At first the authorities thought that the athlete had been taking drugs, but soon they realized they mixed up the results of the tests.
7. When my cousin came into the room, I didn’t recognize her because I didn’t see her since she was a little girl.

8. When I arrived here, I hadn’t known much about the United States. I saw many movies about America, but that wasn’t enough.

9. It was midnight. I was studying for five straight hours. No wonder I was getting tired.

10. I ran into Mike at the front office. Mike had left the room when I walked in.