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GERUNDIOS COMO SUJETO Y OBJETO

What is a gerund?

A gerund is a word with an “ing” ending, and, sometimes can be used as a verb in the present continuous or any other time that needs the “ing”; it can be also used as a noun.

To begin with the grammatical explanation of the gerunds as subject and object.

Take a look to the following example:

“He enjoys running in the 11k”

Subject

Verb

Gerund

Complement

In this example you can clearly see the SUBJECT, the VERB and the COMPLEMENT.

Gerund as a subject

To use the gerund as a SUBJECT, you just have to write the gerund in the place that the subject must be written (at the beginning of the sentence):

“Running in the 11k is something that he enjoys”

Gerund as Subject

Gerund as object

To use the gerund as an object, you need to place the gerund after the main verb, here you have an example:

“He made running a priority”

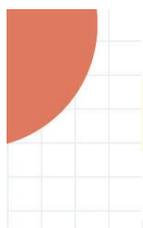
Subject

Main verb

Gerund

Complement

However, sometimes, the gerund won't be placed next to the main, you can also find them like this:

	Indirect Object	The ballerina taught us <u>dancing</u> .
	Object of a Preposition	After <u>studying</u> , we took a break.
	Predicate Noun	Her occupation is <u>studying</u> .

Note: You need to be really careful with ANY other tense that is **continuous** (present continuous, past continuous, etc), it is common to get confused when you have to identify if the word with ING (gerund) is playing a role as a GERUND as subject or object OR is just a VERB, example:

PRESENT CONTINUOUS: I'm **writing** an essay.

GERUND AS SUBJECT: **Writing** essays is very difficult.

GERUND AS OBJECT: I really hate **writing** essays

In these examples, you can even notice that the sense of each sentence is different.

Exercises:

Instructions: Solve the following examples.

- *Complete the sentences below by using the '-ing' gerund form of the verbs on the right.*

1. Eating lots of vegetables is important for good health.
2. _____ a parking space is difficult in the mornings.
3. _____ to work is a great way to get some exercise.
4. _____ books and magazines can help you to learn English.
5. _____ is fun. I love making dinner for my friend.
6. _____ is a great way to get fit, but I'm afraid of the water!
7. _____ is an activity that all animals do. However, did you know that cats sleep for two-thirds of their lives?
8. _____ cigarettes is very bad for your health.
9. _____ TV is bad for my eyes. That's what my mother says.
10. _____ about other people and cultures is fascinating.
11. _____ is my sister's favorite hobby. She has a great voice.
12. _____ and _____ is a serious crime.
13. _____ is boring! I hate shopping malls!
14. _____ is not allowed during the exam.
15. _____ makes me nervous. I prefer traveling by train.

sleep
eat
cook
read
find
sing
smoke
talk
cycle
learn
fly
drink / drive
shop
swim
watch

1. Does Olivia enjoy getting up early?
 - a) subject
 - b) object
2. What about going to the park this afternoon?
 - a) subject
 - b) object
3. Learning foreign languages broadens my mind.
 - a) subject
 - b) object
4. Drinking a cup of coffee in the morning makes me feel better.
 - a) subject
 - b) object
5. They aren't fond of reading e-books.
 - a) subject
 - b) object
6. Watching the sunset pleases me.
 - a) subject
 - b) object
7. Discovering new places in my city is my hobby.
 - a) subject
 - b) object

BE USED TO + ING

In this topic, we are going to check 3 important topics: BE USED TO, USED TO and GET USED TO.

Be used to

Be used to is an expression. It is not a tense. If I say "I am used to Thailand", it is like saying "I am accustomed to Thailand."

The structure of *be used to* is:

subject	+	main verb <i>be</i>	+	<i>used to</i>	+	object
---------	---	------------------------	---	----------------	---	--------

Look at the structure again with positive, negative and question sentences:

	subject	main verb <i>be</i>	<i>not</i>	<i>used to</i>	object
+	I	am		used to	horses.
-	He	is	not	used to	children.
	We	are	n't	used to	big cities.
?	Are	you		used to	her temper?

Note that if the object involves a verb, we use the **-ing** form (-ing form):

- *I am not used to **being** lied to.*
- *He is used to **working** late.*
- *We aren't used to **taking** the bus.*
- *Are you used to **cooking**?*

The **be used to** expression is for talking about something that is **familiar** to us or **easy** for us. For example:

- **I am used to** driving on the left.

Get used to

We use *get used to* to talk about the process of becoming familiar with something.

*I'm finding this new job hard but I'm sure I'll get used to it soon.
It took my mother years to get used to living in London after moving from Pakistan.
I'm getting used to the noise now. I found it really stressful when I first moved in.*

Be used to and *get used to* are followed by a noun, pronoun or the *-ing* form of a verb, and can be used about the past, present or future.

Used to

We use *used to* + infinitive to talk about a past situation that is no longer true. It tells us that there was a repeated action or state in the past which has now changed.

She used to be a long-distance runner when she was younger.

I didn't use to sleep very well, but then I started doing yoga and it really helps.

Did you use to come here as a child?

Exercises:

Mini Quiz

1. The expression *be used to* has a similar meaning to

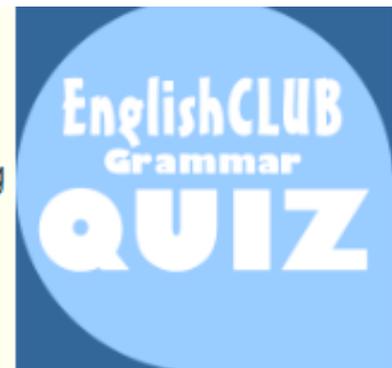
- be good at
- be tired of
- be accustomed to

2. "People here are used to hot weather." They must live in

- a cold country
- a hot country
- a big country

3. "Harry's used to getting up early." He _____ gets up early.

- rarely
- never
- always



- 1 When I started to work here I needed a lot of help, but now I all the work on my own.
- 2 He several books a month, but he doesn't have time any more.
- 3 We were surprised to see her driving – she when we first met her.
- 4 Don't worry, it's a simple program to use. You it in no time, I'm sure.
- 5 When I had to commute to work every day I very early.
- 6 I'm afraid I'll never in this place. I simply don't like it and never will.
- 7 Whenever we came to Coventry we always in the Central Hotel. We loved it.
- 8 When Pete Smith was the head of our office everything well organized. Now it's total chaos here.
- 9 Mr Lazy was shocked when he joined our busy company because he doing much work everyday.
- 10 At first the employees didn't like the new open-space office, but in the end they it.

BE ABLE TO

Be able to is like can. We use it to talk about abilities. We often use it in places where it is not possible to use can

We use 'be able to' to express possibility in the past, present, or future.

1. We weren't able to drive yesterday (Past)
2. I am able to drive under this weather (Present)

3. The roads will be open by tomorrow (Future)

If we want to use 'be able to' in different tenses, we just change the tense of the verb 'to be' and add 'able to'.

Examples:

I am able to translate this article.

My brother was able to play the piano when he was six years old.

We will be able to renovate our house when we have enough money.

You haven't been able to answer my email for a week.

They informed my parents about the accident after they had been able to contact them.

We won't have been able to finish the project by the end of this week.

Exercises:

Instructions: Complete the sentences with the correct structure of "be able to".

Our cat climb trees anymore because she was injured.

If you help us tomorrow, we finish on time.

I use my mobile since I updated the operating system. It helped.

We overslept. Fortunately, we catch the 7.30 train.

They are short of time. They renovate the house by the end of the year.

Before I found the instructions on the Internet, I fix the problem.

Sarah admit her mistake since they had an argument. What a pity!

Ouch, it hurts! I move my arm at all.

You can ask Tom. But I am afraid he translate the article till Friday.

No problem. We visit the castle by noon.

Josh eat five sandwiches for a snack. He is a big eater.

We enjoyed the online lesson after we join it.

3ER CONDICIONAL

We make the third conditional by using the past perfect after 'if' and then 'would have' and the past participle in the second part of the sentence:

- if + past perfect, ...would + have + past participle

It talks about the past. It's used to describe a situation that didn't happen, and to imagine the result of this situation.

- If she **had studied**, she **would have passed** the exam (but, really, we know she didn't study and so she didn't pass)
- If I **hadn't eaten** so much, I **wouldn't have felt** sick (but I did eat a lot, and so I did feel sick).
- If we **had taken** a taxi, we **wouldn't have missed** the plane
- She **wouldn't have been** tired if she **had gone** to bed earlier
- She **would have become** a teacher if she **had gone** to university
- He **would have been** on time for the interview if he **had left** the house at nine

Exercises:

Instructions: Complete the sentences

1. If you (study) had studied for the test, you (pass) would have passed it.
2. If you (ask) _____ me, I (help) _____ you.
3. If we (go) _____ to the cinema, we (see) _____ my friend Jacob.
4. If you (speak) _____ English, she (understand) _____.
5. If they (listen) _____ to me, we (be) _____ home earlier.
6. I (write) _____ you a postcard if I (have) _____ your address.
7. If I (not / break) _____ my leg, I (take part) _____ in the contest.
8. If it (not/ start) _____ to rain, we (walk) _____ to the museum.
9. We (swim) _____ in the sea if there (not / be) _____ so many sharks there.
10. If she (take) _____ the bus, she (not / arrive) _____ on time.

MIXED CONDITIONALS

Present result of a past condition

Form

In this type of mixed conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the past perfect, and the tense in the main clause is the present conditional.

If clause (condition)	Main clause (result)
If + past perfect	present conditional
If this thing had happened	that thing would happen.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical.

Examples

If I had worked harder at school, I would have a better job now.

I would have a better job now if I had worked harder at school.

If we had looked at the map we wouldn't be lost.

We wouldn't be lost if we had looked at the map.

If you had caught that plane you would be dead now.

You would be dead now if you had caught that plane.

Function

This type of mixed conditional refers to an unreal past condition and its probable result in the present. These sentences express a situation which is contrary to reality both in the past and in the present. In these mixed conditional sentences, the time is the past in the "if" clause and in the present in the main clause.

Examples

If I had studied I would have my driving license. (but I didn't study and now I don't have my license)

I would be a millionaire now if I had taken that job. (but I didn't take the job and I'm not a millionaire)

If you had spent all your money, you wouldn't buy this jacket. (but you didn't spend all your money and now you can buy this jacket)

In these mixed conditional sentences, you can also use modals in the main clause instead of would to express the degree of certainty, permission, or a recommendation about the outcome.

Examples

If you had crashed the car, you might be in trouble.

I could be a millionaire now if I had invested in ABC Plumbing.

If I had learned to ski, I might be on the slopes right now.

Past result of present or continuing condition

Form

In this second type of mixed conditional sentence, the tense in the 'if' clause is the simple past, and the tense in the main clause is the perfect conditional.

If clause (condition)	Main clause (result)
If + simple past	perfect conditional
If this thing happened	that thing would have happened.

As in all conditional sentences, the order of the clauses is not fixed. You may have to rearrange the pronouns and adjust punctuation when you change the order of the clauses, but the meaning is identical.

Examples

If I wasn't afraid of spiders, I would have picked it up.

I would have picked it up if I wasn't afraid of spiders.

If we didn't trust him we would have sacked him months ago.

We would have sacked him months ago if we didn't trust him.

If I wasn't in the middle of another meeting, I would have been happy to help you.

I would have been happy to help you if I wasn't in the middle of another meeting.

Function

These mixed conditional sentences refer to an unreal present situation and its probable (but unreal) past result. In these mixed conditional sentences, the time in the if clause is now or always and the time in the main clause is before now. For example, "If I wasn't afraid of spiders" is contrary to present reality. I am afraid of spiders. "I would have picked it up" is contrary to past reality. I didn't pick it up.

Examples

If she wasn't afraid of flying she wouldn't have travelled by boat.

I'd have been able to translate the letter if my Italian was better.

If I was a good cook, I'd have invited them to lunch.

If the elephant wasn't in love with the mouse, she'd have trodden on him by now.

Exercises:

A. Choose A or B to complete the mixed conditional sentences.

1. If Pat had told her parents about her exam marks, A she wouldn't have felt so bad right now. B she wouldn't feel so bad right now.
2. If Jake hadn't been rude to her, A she would still like him. B she would have still liked him.
3. If the boys had joined the ski club, A they would be coming with us tomorrow. B they would have been coming with us tomorrow.
4. Kevin would have bought me the ring A if he were wealthy. B if he had been wealthy.
5. If we weren't interested in archaeology, A we wouldn't have gone to Egypt next month. B we wouldn't be going to Egypt next month.

B. Write mixed conditional sentences for the following situations.

They didn't buy a ticket yesterday. They aren't at the concert now. If they'd bought a ticket yesterday, they would be at the concert now.

- 1 He isn't rich today. He wasted all his money.
- 2 I robbed a bank. I'm in prison now.
- 3 She missed her flight yesterday. She isn't here today.
- 4 You tell a lot of lies. Your friends ignored you last week.

C. Complete the mixed conditional sentences with the correct form of the bold verbs.

1 If she..... French at school, she would be translating that book for us now.
(study)

2 I would have danced with you at the party if I any sense of rhythm!(have)

3 If their parentsnext weekend, they would have agreed to come on the skiing trip. (not visit)

4 If we hadn't spent all our money last month, we to the concert next week.(go)

D. Complete the mixed conditional sentences with the correct form of the verbs in the list. Do, not come, not spend, pay, speak, win

1. If Ithe match, I would be in the final now.
2. If I..... better at school, I would be at university now.
3. Violet's employer..... her more if she were better at her job.

4. If GeorgeChinese, he would have translated the poem.
5. If my motherto visit last week, I wouldn't be so tired now.
6. They would travel to Chile with us next month if theyall their money

PASADO CON VERBOS MODALES

Could have, *would have*, and *should have* are sometimes called “modals of lost opportunities.” They work like a grammatical time machine. The simple past just tells what happened. Past modals tell what *could have*, *would have*, and *should have* happened.

To form these past modals, use *could*, *would*, or *should* followed by *have*, followed by a past participle verb. Use *have* for all pronouns; never use *has* or *had* to form a past modal. Here are some examples:

She *could have gone* to any college she wanted to.

I *would have gone* to the party, but I was tired.

He *should have told* the truth about what he saw.

Each of these modals has a slightly different meaning. We'll look at each of them using examples from movies and popular songs.

Could have

We'll start with *could have*. *Could have* means that something was possible in the past, but it did not happen.

I *could have gone* directly to college, but I decided to travel for a year.

Listen to this song by 1980s teen pop star Tiffany. The singer is thinking about past possibilities with her lost love.

Could have been so beautiful

Could have been so right

Could have been my lover

Every day of my life

Native speakers often do not pronounce their past tense modals as clearly as Tiffany. *Could have been* usually gets contracted to *could've been* or even *coulda' been*.

Listen to Marlon Brando in the classic film "On the Waterfront." Brando's character, Terry Malloy, was once a promising young boxer.

"You don't understand. I coulda' had class. I coulda' been a **contender**. I could have been somebody—instead of a **bum**."

To form the negative with these modals, use *not* between *could* and *have*. *Could not have* means that something was impossible in the past. For example:

She could not have been on that flight because I just saw her at work.

Defense lawyers often use *could not have* to argue for a client's innocence.

A popular **compliment** in English is, "I couldn't have said it better myself." You can say this when you like the way somebody said something. It is a way to show strong agreement.

Would have

Let's move on to *would have*.

Would have is a bit more difficult because it has two common structures. The first is with *but*. *I would have A, but I had to B*. Use this structure to show that you wanted to do something in the past, but you could not.

I would have called, but there was no phone service.

I would have loaned you the money, but I didn't have any.

Would have also forms the result clause of a past unreal conditional. For example:

If I had known they were **vegetarians**, I would have made a salad.

You can always reverse conditional sentences. If *would have* comes first, there is no comma.

I would have made a salad if I had known they were vegetarians.

Past unreal conditionals are very complex; you can learn more about them on a [previous episode of Everyday Grammar](#).

Usually, *would have* suggests a bad feeling about the past. But not always. In this song by the band Chicago, the singer is surprisingly happy that his ex-girlfriend cheated on him. Her **infidelity** gave him the opportunity to meet someone else. And that someone else turned out to be his true love.

If she would have been faithful

If she could have been true

Then I wouldn'ta been cheated

I would never know real love

I would've missed out on you

Should have

Finally, let's look at *should have*. *Should have* means that something did not happen, but we wish it had happened. We use *should have* to talk about past mistakes. A worried mother might say:

"I was so worried about you. You should have called!"

Should have is common in **apologies**. For example:

I'm sorry that I'm late for work. I should have woken up earlier.

You might remember Lieutenant Dan in the movie *Forrest Gump*. In the movie, Dan loses both of his legs in the Vietnam War. He would have died, but Forrest saved him.

Listen for *should have* as Dan **confronts** Forrest.

“You listen to me. We all have a destiny. Nothing just happens. It’s all part of a plan. I *should have died* out there with my men. But now I’m nothing but a **cripple!**”

Should have can be used in a light-hearted way. In this song, country singer Toby Keith imagines how exciting his life would be if he had chosen to be a cowboy.

I *should’ve been* a cowboy

I *should’ve learned* to rope and ride

Wearing my **six-shooter**

Riding my pony on a **cattle drive**

I couldn’t have said it better myself. As you can see, these modals of lost opportunities offer a colorful way to talk about past choices.

That’s all for this week. Join us next week for more Everyday Grammar.

I’m John Russell.

And I’m Dr. Jill Robbins.

Now it’s your turn. Leave us example sentence. What is something you could have / should have / would have done in the past?

	positive	negative	question
Could have	I could have been a cowboy. <i>Possible but didn't happen</i>	He couldn't have known about the story. <i>Impossible in the past</i>	Could/couldn't he have known about the story before it was published?
Would have (used with past unreal conditional)	I would have told you if I had known. <i>Regret about the past</i>	He wouldn't have won the election without her support. <i>Alternate outcome</i>	Would/wouldn't you have won without her support?
Should have	I should have listened to my mother. <i>sorry about past decision</i>	He shouldn't have told her anything! <i>Sorry about past decision</i>	Should/shouldn't you have called first?

Exercises

- 1 Nobody knows exactly why he died. But we think it been an accident.
- 2 I revised more for the exam. I was lazy, and now I'll fail!
- 3 Sarah looked very happy. She passed her driving test.
- 4 I didn't know you were going to Phil's party yesterday. You told me!
- 5 I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He taken the wrong train.
- 6 I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He taken the correct train.
- 7 You been ill yesterday. Jessie saw you at the bowling alley.
- 8 I don't know where they went but they gone to Paris or Marseille.
- 9 You paid more attention. Now we are lost.
- 10 The window was broken, so the thieves got in through that window.

WISHES AND REGRETS

We often use the verb 'wish' to express strong desires. We always wish for something to be different than it is (or was) or wish for something new or different to happen in the future. Our

wishes for the present are for things that are unlikely or impossible. Our wishes for the past are always impossible, because the past cannot be changed.

Wishes about the present and future

We cannot use a present tense verb with 'I wish'. Wishes for the present / future use a past tense verb or a modal verb with an infinitive. When we make a wish, we change the form of the verb that we are using from positive to negative, or vice versa.

Example:

I am poor. I don't like this and I want to be rich. To express this as a wish we can say: "I wish I wasn't poor." or we can change the adjective and say: "I wish I was rich."

Wishes about states

If we make a wish about possessions or to change a state, we use 'wish' and the original verb in a past form.

Look at the examples below:

Wishes relating to states

- I wish I was rich! (**I am not rich!** This is a wish relating to a present state, not an action)
- I wish I wasn't here! (**I am here!** A wish relating to a state, not an action)
- I wish I knew what to do! (**I don't know what to do!** A wish relating to a state, not an action)
- I wish I had her phone number! (**I don't have her number!** A wish about possession, not an action)
- I wish I lived in America! (**I don't live there!** A wish relating to a state, not an action)
- I wish I didn't smoke. (**I smoke!** A wish relating to a state – being a person who smokes)

If our wishes relate to **actions** that are performed by **other people**, we use wish with '**would**' and a verb infinitive.

If the wish is for an **action** that we wish for **ourselves**, we use '**could**' instead of 'would'.

If we wish for **opportunity, ability, capability or permission**, we use '**could**' and a verb infinitive.

Typical wishes – relating to actions

- I wish he would stop talking! (He never stops talking! A wish relating to an action)
- I wish it would stop raining! (It is raining and it won't stop!)
- I wish he wouldn't leave his clothes on the floor! (He does leave his clothes on the floor)
- I wish I could swim. (I can't swim. A wish relating to ability)
- I wish I could remember her name! (I can't remember. A wish relating to ability)
- I wish I didn't have to go to work today. (I must work. A wish relating to permission/ability etc)

To talk about repeated actions which we do not like, we use 'keep + ...ing' to emphasise the repeated or continual nature of the action:

- I wish she wouldn't keep talking about her children! (She constantly talks about her children)
- I wish he wouldn't keep parking his car outside my house, it's inconsiderate. (He always does this)
- I wish she wouldn't keep shouting. I'm not deaf! (She always shouts.) (We can also use 'always + verb infinitive' for a similar meaning:)
- I wish she wouldn't always shout. I'm not deaf.

Wishes about the past

We all make mistakes. We all have regrets. Things happen that are not perfect. We often talk about these things and wish for things to be different. When we speak about things that DID NOT happen in the past, but which we wish were true, we use this form:

'I wish' + 'subject' + 'had' + 'verb past participle'.

Consider these ideas:

- I went to University in Oxford, but now I regret it. Cambridge is a better University. We can say: "I wish I had gone to Cambridge University."
- Manchester United lost to Barcelona in the Champions League. I wanted Manchester to win. We can say: "I wish Manchester had beaten Barcelona."

If we wish about past possessions or past ability/capability/permission/opportunity etc, we use this form:

'I wish' with 'subject + could + have + past participle (present perfect)'.

Consider these ideas:

- I didn't go to the cinema with you because I was working. I was unable to go.
We can say: "I wish I could have gone to the cinema with you."
- I wanted to live in America when I was a boy, but my parents chose to live in the UK.
We can say: "I wish I could have lived in America." ('I wish I had lived in the USA' is also correct, but gives less information.)

Sometimes, the same wish can be expressed both ways, depending on the reasons:

For example:

- "I wish I had gone to Cambridge University." (I decided to go to Oxford) **or**
"I wish I could have gone to Cambridge University." (They refused to accept me, so I was unable)
- "I wish I had gone to the cinema with you last night." (It was a mistake, which I regret.) **or**
"I wish I could have gone to the cinema with you last night." (I was working so I was unable to go.)

When we speak about states or things that DID happen in the past, but which we wish were not true, we use this form:

'I wish' with 'subject + had + not + verb past participle (negative past perfect)'.

For example:

- I went to University in Oxford, but now I regret it. Cambridge is a better University.
We can say: "I wish I hadn't gone to Oxford University."
- Manchester United lost against Barcelona in the Champions League. I wanted Manchester to win.
We can say: "I wish Manchester hadn't lost to Barcelona."
- I forgot to write to her. Now she is unhappy with me.
We can say: "I wish I hadn't forgotten to write to her."
- I resigned from my job, but now I am unemployed. It was a mistake.
We can say: "I wish I hadn't resigned from my job."
- I was tired when I met Susan, so I didn't talk a lot. Now she thinks I'm boring.
We can say: "I wish I hadn't been tired when I met Susan."

We do not use 'could' with this negative form.

Exercises:

Dear Mum,

I feel really unhappy! I wish I **1** this job. If only I **2** to you before I made the decision to come here. I wish the people here **3** so unfriendly. I don't like it at all! If only I **4** longer breaks.

Looking at a computer screen all day is tiring; I wish my computer **5** ! And I wish my boss **6** yelling at me all the time. He's always in a bad mood. It's so annoying! Also, I wish there **7** someone here I could talk to but there is no-one I can talk to. I haven't made any friends. If only I **8** some friends when I arrived here, but meeting new people is very difficult. I wish you **9** nearer to me. If only I **10** you more often!

Please write soon. I miss you!

Love,

Mary

PRESENTE PERFECTO CONTINUO

Actions that started in the past and continue in the present

She **has been waiting** for you all day (= and she's still waiting now).

I've been working on this report since eight o'clock this morning (= and I still haven't finished it).

They have been travelling since last October (= and they're not home yet).

Actions that have just finished, but we are interested in the results

She has been cooking since last night (= and the food on the table looks delicious).

It's been raining (= and the streets are still wet).

Someone's been eating my chips (= half of them have gone).

Forming the present perfect continuous

The present perfect continuous is made up of two elements: the present perfect of the verb 'to be' (have/has been), and the present participle of the main verb (base+ing)

Subject	+has/have been	+base+ing
She	has been	swimming

Affirmative: She has been / She's been running.

Negative: She hasn't been running.

Interrogative : Has she been running?

Interrogative negative: Hasn't she been running?

Example: present perfect continuous, TO LIVE

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have been living	I haven't been living	Have I been living?
You have been living	You haven't been living	Have you been living?
He, she, it has been living	He hasn't been living	Has she been living?
We have been living	We haven't been living	Have we been living?
You have been living	You haven't been living	Have you been living?
They have been living	They haven't been living	Have they been living?

Exercises:

1. He (work) has been working in this company since 1985.
2. I (wait) _____ for you since two o'clock.
3. Mary (live) _____ in Germany since 1992.
4. Why is he so tired? He (play) _____ tennis for five hours.
5. How long (learn / you) _____ English?
6. We (look for) _____ the motorway for more than an hour.
7. I (live) _____ without electricity for two weeks.
8. The film (run / not) _____ for ten minutes yet, but there's a commercial break already.
9. How long (work / she) _____ in the garden?
10. She (not / be) _____ in the garden for more than an hour.

PASADO PERFECTO CONTINUO

The past perfect continuous (also known as the past perfect progressive) is a verb tense that shows that an action that started in the past continued up until another time in the past.

How to form the past perfect continuous

The formula for the past perfect continuous tense is had been + [present participle (root form of verb + -ing)].

Unlike the present perfect continuous, which indicates an action that began in the past and has continued up to the present, the past perfect continuous indicates something that began in the past, continued in the past, and also ended at a defined point in the past.

He had been drinking milk out the carton when Mom walked into the kitchen.

I had been working at the company for five years when I got the promotion.

When, for, since, and before are words that you may see used alongside the past perfect continuous tense.

Martha had been walking three miles a day before she broke her leg.

The program that was terminated had been running smoothly since 1945.

Anh Ngoc had been playing the piano for thirty-five years when she was finally asked to do a solo with the local orchestra.

He had been throwing rocks at her window for five minutes before she finally came out on the balcony and said, "Hey, Romeo."

Exercises:

1. We (sleep) had been sleeping for 12 hours when he woke us up.
2. They (wait) _____ at the station for 90 minutes when the train finally arrived.
3. We (look for) _____ her ring for two hours and then we found it in the bathroom.
4. I (not / walk) _____ for a long time, when it suddenly began to rain.
5. How long (learn / she) _____ English before she went to London?
6. Frank Sinatra caught the flu because he (sing) _____ in the rain too long.
7. He (drive) _____ less than an hour when he ran out of petrol.
8. They were very tired in the evening because they (help) _____ on the farm all day.
9. I (not / work) _____ all day; so I wasn't tired and went to the disco at night.
10. They (cycle) _____ all day so their legs were sore in the evening.