



HYPNO**LANGUE**
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PLUPERFECT CONTINUOUS

Grammar:

We use the PLUPERFECT CONTINUOUS (also known as Past Perfect Continuous) to refer to an activity which happened for a certain period of time before something else happened. It focuses on the activity itself.

We sometimes use it to show the feeling or opinion the speaker has.

Example:

She said he had been drinking(= there are two meanings:

- a) **his drinking lasted some time (we focus on the continuity or duration of the action) OR**
- b) **the speaker gives their opinion, here as if to say he drank a lot for a certain period of time. (the statement is biased)**

NB: If we use the pluperfect simple, the statement is objective:

She said he had drunk (= he drank and then she referred to his drinking)



Dialogue:

THEY SAID WE HAD BEEN....

- Wentworth: What happened last Friday? How did the charity event go?
- Sarah: It went well.
- Wentworth: What cause was it for?
- Sarah: We raised money for literacy in Namibia.
- Wentworth: How much did you collect?
- Sarah: We collected almost 5,000euro.
- Wentworth: I heard you had managed to collect twice as much.
- Sarah: Twice as much? You mean 10,000euro. I wish we had but unfortunately we didn't.
- Wentworth: It's strange. I was told you had been raising funds for the past month. And the funds amounted to this.
- Sarah: How could we?
- Wentworth: Didn't you ask people in the street; organize other events in other cities?
- Sarah: I'm afraid not. It would have been surprising to gather such amount of money. We are only 6 volunteers, our means are very limited. 10,000euro is a large sum of money, isn't it? Did they really say we had been collecting 10,000 euro so far?
- Wentworth: I guess it is grapevine. Gosh I had been thinking people could show more concern and generosity these days.
- Sarah: It has nothing to do with their generosity. It has more to do with the ways you can reach them. We are not part of a big international organization; we don't have the means to run a powerful campaign. We have a name, a status and a logo. We don't have any premises. Holding the event was time-consuming, we advanced the funds to cover the cost of drinks and buffet, the band playing and the rent of the room. It will be deducted from the money collected. The balance will be sent to Namibia schools through Clowns without borders. They teach how to read in a playful way. They are used to having book-inspired performances.
- Wentworth: Very interesting. I'll do a little Internet research when I go home. Have a nice day!