**The past perfect tense**

The **past perfect simple** bestaat uit had + voltooid deelwoord (past participle)

The **past perfect continuous** bestaat uit had been + -ing vorm

General rule Dutch past perfect tense = English past perfect tense

The past perfect simple tense is used to describe that **a past happened before another past event.** The past perfect is used for the earlier event.

He couldn’t open the door because he **had lost** his key

When an action is expressed, only the past perfect continuous can be used. Otherwise both simple and continuous tenses can be used.

When he became managing director, **he had worked/had been working** here for six years

When I saw him at the bus stop, he **had been waiting** for two hours

The past perfect continuous can be used to talk about **something that had just stopped and which the result was clearly visible**. The speaker uses the past perfect continuous to give an **explanation** based on evidence.

Her hair was wet. She **had been swimming**

