

Grammar Stories



My E-Pal

A. Reading

I finally met my e-pal in person last week. We had been writing to each other for two years in English class, but we had never met. We had been hoping to meet, but it was difficult as she is from England and I live in Canada. We are both synchronized swimmers. She had been trying to convince her team to travel to Canada for some small swimming competitions, but it was too expensive. Finally, her team decided to come to Canada for a big international competition. Up until last week, I had been recovering from an ankle injury, but luckily I am fully recovered now. We are both excited about the competition and spending some time together.



My E-Pal cont.

B. Questions

 How long had he been writing to his e-pal before they had the chance to meet face to face?

2. What had she been trying to do in order to go to Canada?

3. What had he been doing up until last week?





John's Rock Band

A. Reading

John's rock band just broke up. They had been playing together for three years, but they hadn't been getting anywhere. They had been performing in a lot of shows, but the clubs were usually empty. They had been publicizing their shows by putting up posters, but no one seemed to read them. They had been writing lots of new songs, but no one wanted to buy their music. For the last year or so, all the musicians had been experimenting with other music groups. The guitarist had been jamming with a jazz group on the weekends, the drummer had been drumming for a punk band, and John had been rapping for a hip-hop group. That's why they decided to split up.



John's Rock Band cont.

B. Questions

1. How long had John's band been playing together?

2. Had the band been getting anywhere/making progress during that time?

- 3. Name three things the band had been doing to become successful.
- 4. What had the guitarist been doing on the weekends?
- 5. Who else had the drummer been playing for?

6. What had John been doing besides singing in the rock band?



Sam Proposes to Julie

A. Reading

Julie's boyfriend, Sam, finally proposed to her yesterday. Julie had been waiting for two years for a proposal, but Sam had been avoiding the topic of marriage. Julie had been hinting at it for a long time. She had been buying bridal magazines and taking Sam to jewelry shops. Everyone could see that Sam and Julie were really in love, but Sam had been taking his time. Recently, even Sam's friends had been pestering him about proposing to Julie. For the last few weeks, Sam had been looking all over town for the perfect ring. He finally found it three days ago. Sam is glad he finally got the nerve to propose to Julie. He had been contemplating it for a long time but was too nervous to make a move.



Sam Proposes to Julie cont.

B. Questions

1. How long had Julie been waiting for a proposal?

2. Up until recently, had Sam enjoyed talking about marriage?

- 3. How had Julie been hinting at the idea of marriage? Name two ways.
- 4. What had Sam's friends been doing recently?
- 5. Before finding the perfect ring, where had Sam been looking for rings?
- 6. Sam had been contemplating marriage for a long time, so why did it take him so long to make a move?



About You

A. Questions

Answer the following questions using the past perfect progressive.

1. Did you recently meet up with a long-distance friend? How long had you been waiting to see them?

2. Did any of your dreams recently come true? What was your dream, and how long had you been waiting for it to happen?

3. Did someone buy you something you really wanted for your birthday? Had you been hinting at it?

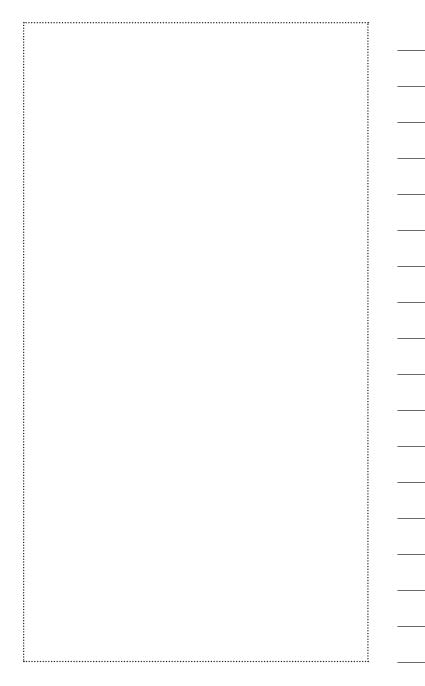
About You cont.

B. Drawing

Draw a picture of yourself in the box, or paste in a photograph.

C. Writing

Now use the questions and answers on page 7 to write a short paragraph about yourself.





Your Own Story

A. Drawing

Draw a picture in the box, or paste in a photograph.

B. Writing

Using the past perfect progressive, write a short paragraph about the picture in the box. Use your notebook if you don't have enough space below.



Your Own Story cont.

C. Questions

Write five questions about your paragraph.

| 1. | |
|----|--|
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5 | |
| 5. | |

D. Answers

Give your story and questions to a classmate. Have them read your story and answer your questions below.

| 1. | |
|----|--|
| 2. | |
| 3. | |
| 4. | |
| 5. | |