The Past Perfect Continuous Exercise

He had been eating garlic

A Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets using the past perfect continuous or the past perfect simple.

1. When the student revolution came, I ............................................. there for 6 months. ( work )
2. Before Jim finally decided to go to Thailand, he ............................................. about it for months. ( think )
3. They ............................................. all the chocolate cake by the time Michael got to the party. ( eat )
4. I ............................................. Scarlett Johansson on three previous occasions. Lucky me! ( met )
5. The forensic evidence shows that he ............................................. his nose just before he was murdered. ( pick )
6. When the doctor told him his liver was seriously bad, he ............................................. hamburgers for a month. ( eat )
7. Prior to the explosion, the fat man ............................................. seven large chocolate cakes. ( eat )
8. When they cancelled the flight to Alicante, the storm ............................................. all afternoon with no sign of abating. ( rage )

B Fill the gaps with the verb in brackets using the past perfect continuous or the past continuous.

1. When I asked Carlos if he wanted to go out, he said he couldn't because he ............................................. an assignment. ( finish )
2. Scarlett came into the room panting. She ............................................. round the park. ( jog )
3. Scarlett wasn't in. She ............................................. around the park. ( jog )
4. I ............................................. a bath when I suddenly had a great idea. ( have )
5. He told me he ............................................. seriously ............................................. about finding another job soon. ( think )
6. He ............................................. about finding a new job for about a year before he finally got round to it. He's happy now. ( think )
7. It was obvious from her outrageous behaviour that ............................................. ( drink )
8. I ............................................. a latte in the Café New York, when I saw a famous actor walk past the window. ( drink )
Answers

A
1 When the student revolution came, I had been working there for 6 months.
2 Before Jim finally decided to go to Thailand, he had been thinking about it for months.
3 They had eaten all the chocolate cake by the time Michael got to the party.
4 I had met Scarlett Johansson on three previous occasions. Lucky me!
5 The forensic evidence shows that he had been picking his nose just before he was murdered.
6 When the doctor told him his liver was seriously bad, he had been eating hamburgers for a month.
7 Prior to the explosion, the fat man had eaten seven large chocolate cakes.
8 When they cancelled the flight to Alicante, the storm had been raging all afternoon with no sign of abating.

B
1 When I asked Carlos if he wanted to go out, he said he couldn’t because he was finishing an assignment.
2 Scarlett came into the room panting. She had been jogging round the park.
3 Scarlett wasn’t in. She was jogging around the park.
4 I was having a bath when I suddenly had a great idea.
5 He told me he was seriously thinking about finding another job soon.
6 He had thinking about finding a new job for about a year before he finally got round to it. He’s happy now.
7 It was obvious from her outrageous behaviour that she had been drinking.
8 I was drinking a latte in the Café New York, when I saw a famous actor walk past the window.