

Grammar in context

Find these extracts in the text on page 27. Explain why each verb in bold is in a continuous tense.

- 1 Ann Makosinski **has been creating** useful 'clean technology' gadgets for several years.
- 2 ... as 16-year-old Ryan Beck recognised while he **was watching** a particularly vicious game of American football.



REMEMBER

We use continuous tenses for:

- actions or situations in progress at a particular moment – *What **were you doing** when I called?*
- temporary actions or situations – *I'm **living** here for a few months.*
- unfinished actions or situations – *I've **been working** on a new invention recently.*
- annoying habits – *You're **always criticising** me.*
- events continuing up to a particular moment or stopping just before it – *I'm tired because I've **been studying** all evening.*

► See Grammar reference, Unit 3, page 150

- 1 If a tense in bold is correct, put a tick. If it's incorrect, write the correct tense and explain why.

- 1 What is Sally **doing** with that machine?

- 2 You look out of breath. **Have you run**?

- 3 I'm **studying** graphic design for six months now.

- 4 When we were children, my brother **was** always play tricks on me. _____
- 5 They've **been creating** a new version of the iPhone at the moment. _____
- 6 When I finally succeeded, I **had been trying** to build a time machine for over a decade.

- 2 Choose the correct word to complete the dialogue.

- Anna: How are your computer coding lessons going?
- Beth: Oh, great! I (1) **have / has** been working on something really interesting lately.
- Anna: That's good. The last time we spoke you (2) **was / had** been getting a bit bored with computing.
- Beth: Well, you know I (3) **were / was** thinking about giving it up. I'm definitely staying for this new project!
- Anna: What is it?
- Beth: We (4) **have / had** been building a new app for young inventors. It (5) **guides / guided** you through turning your ideas into reality, how to approach companies, that kind of thing.
- Anna: That sounds really interesting. You know, I (6) **was / have** been thinking recently about inventing something myself. It must be great to come up with something new.
- Beth: I've met some fantastic young inventors through it. Most of them (7) **have / were** been working on their ideas for months, and sometimes years. And now they (8) **is / are** getting the rewards for their efforts. Amazing, really.
- Anna: Cool! Let me know when it's finished and I'll download it!

- 3 Choose the best form of the verb to complete each gap.



Japan's robot hotel



If you (1) _____ developments in the world of robotics recently, you'll know that Japan is a world leader in this field. No surprise, then, that someone in Japan has come up with the world's first hotel run entirely by robots!

You may (2) _____ how guests check in, check out and do all the things that normally require a human behind the desk at reception. First of all, guests who (3) _____ use a computer terminal with face recognition technology. A robot receptionist (4) _____ by to help in case of problems and there's even an English-speaking dinosaur robot! Next, a robot porter (5) _____ your bags to your room, where a personal assistant in the shape of a flower (called Tuly) (6) _____ to adjust the lights, tell you the time and give you the weather forecast. The room automatically adjusts the heating by detecting how hot you (7) _____. And a room only costs £46 a night!



- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 A have been following | B follow |
| C are following | |
| 2 A wondering | B be wondering |
| C been wondering | |
| 3 A checked in | B were checking in |
| C are checking in | |
| 4 A was standing | B is standing |
| C has been standing | |
| 5 A is taking | B takes |
| C has been taking | |
| 6 A be waiting | B is waiting |
| C had been waiting | |
| 7 A feeling | B have been feeling |
| C are feeling | |