

Gemma > Hi there! Guess where I am!

Bill > Where?

Gemma > Around the corner! I'm staying at the Radisson Hotel.

Bill > Wow! Have you changed jobs?

Gemma > No, I still work for the same company but we're opening a new office.

Bill > How long have you been here?

Gemma > Since Monday. I've been busy all week but I haven't forgotten you!

Bill > Do you have any free time? I know that you've always liked Indian food and there's a great restaurant near your hotel.

Gemma > Sounds great. I love curry.

Presentation

Simple present

Use the simple present to talk about:

- Facts: *I work for the same company.*
- Habits: *I eat a lot of Indian food.*
- Routines: *I start work at nine.*

Present continuous

Use the present continuous to talk about:

- Something happening at or around the time of speaking: *We're opening new offices.*
- A temporary situation: *I'm staying at the hotel this week.*
- A changing situation: *The company is expanding.* We normally use stative verbs with the simple present tense and NOT the present continuous tense: *I love curry! / I'm loving curry!*

You can use both the present perfect and the present perfect continuous to talk about an action, event, or situation that started in the past and continues in the present:

I've been here since Monday. (I'm still here.)
I've been visiting clients all week. (I started on Monday and I'm still visiting clients.)

Present perfect or present perfect continuous?

You can use the present perfect or continuous when you talk about facts which are long term:

I've worked for this company all my life.

I've been working for this company all my life.

You can use both forms with verbs such as *live, work, teach.*

You also use the present perfect with stative verbs: *How long have you been here?*

You use the present perfect continuous to talk about:

- something temporary: *I've been working in our new offices all week.*
- repeated actions: *I've been visiting clients every day.*

You usually use dynamic verbs in the present perfect continuous to talk about an action, or series of actions, that is still in progress: *I've been talking to clients.*

how long, for / since

You often use the present perfect with *how long, for, and since.* Use *for* to talk about a **period of time**. Use *since* with the **point in time** and **when it started**:

A: *How long have you been here?*
 B: *For about an hour.*
 A: *How long have you been working here?*
 B: *Since I left school.*

Exercises

1 Make sentences with the words. Use the simple present or the present continuous.

- 1 They / currently / develop
They are currently developing a new type of medicine for the flu.
- 2 The mailman / deliver / our letters
..... once a day.
- 3 You / always / talk
..... during the movie. It's so annoying!
- 4 This room / be / always / cold
.....
- 5 Why / my course fees / go up
..... again this term?
- 6 It's night time and the wind / blow
..... when there's a loud scream in the air ...

2 Write the verbs in parentheses in the present perfect or present perfect continuous.

Use the present perfect continuous where possible.

- 1 Sorry, I didn't call you back. I 've been working (work) long hours every day this week.
- 2 Wow! I (not/see) you for ages. You look great!
- 3 How long (you/be) here?
- 4 How long (wait) for me?
- 5 I'm surprised you haven't seen them. They (stay) at the same hotel as you.
- 6 Sandra (want) to become a doctor since she was a child.
- 7 Frank (talk) about the new girl in his class ever since she arrived.
- 8 In my life, I (always/spend) too much time on unimportant things.

3 Choose the correct options. In some cases, both verb forms are possible.

Language from the Stone Age

Everyone ¹agree / agrees that language is ²always changing / changing always. For example, words often disappear after a few years and new ones – especially among teenagers and young adults – ³are appearing / have appeared all the time. But speakers of English ⁴are using / have been using certain words ⁵for / since tens of thousands of years. That's what researchers at the University of Reading now ⁶believe / are believing. Dr Mark Pagel, who is leading the research at the University of Reading, ⁷thinks / is thinking that words including 'I', 'we' and 'two' ⁸are / have been with us ⁹for / since the

Stone Age. Over the last few months, his team ¹⁰is comparing / has been comparing modern and ancient languages using computers and the results show that humans ¹¹have said / have been saying some words for the last 15,000 to 20,000 years. Since these findings, Dr Pagel ¹²is also studying / has also been studying how quickly words change or disappear. For example, numbers and pronouns ¹³don't often change / aren't often changing because we use them extremely often. However, less frequently used words ¹⁴evolve / are evolving more quickly and are also likely to die out very quickly.

