



## 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 <sup>1</sup>*agree / agrees* that language is <sup>2</sup>*always changing / changing always*. For example, words often disappear after a few years and new ones – especially among teenagers and young adults – <sup>3</sup>*are appearing / have appeared* all the time. But speakers of English <sup>4</sup>*are using / have been using* certain words <sup>5</sup>*for / since* tens of thousands of years. That's what researchers at the University of Reading now <sup>6</sup>*believe / are believing*.

Dr Mark Pagel, who is leading the research at the University of Reading, <sup>7</sup>*thinks / is thinking* that words including 'I', 'we' and 'two' <sup>8</sup>*are / have been* with us <sup>9</sup>*for / since* the

Stone Age. Over the last few months, his team <sup>10</sup>*is comparing / has been comparing* modern and ancient languages using computers and the results show that humans <sup>11</sup>*have said / have been saying* some words for the last 15,000 to 20,000 years.

Since these findings, Dr Pagel <sup>12</sup>*is also studying / has also been studying* how quickly words change or disappear. For example, numbers and pronouns <sup>13</sup>*don't often change / aren't often changing* because we use them extremely often. However, less frequently used words <sup>14</sup>*evolve / are evolving* more quickly and are also likely to die out very quickly.

