

Present perfect simple

Form

have/has + past participle

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) learnt** ... I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) learnt** ... **Have** I/you/we/they **learnt** ...

Use

Example

Situations that started in the past and are still true

*Mrs Jenkins **has been** the head teacher for three years.*

Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned

*I've **already read** that book.*

Completed actions where the important thing is the result now

*They've **all done** their homework.*

Helpful hints

The present perfect simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

- **for** She's taught German here **for** over five years.
- **since** Mr Gray has taught French here **since** 2006.
- **just** We've **just** done this exercise.
- **already** We've **already** done this exercise.
- **yet** We haven't checked the answers **yet**.
- **ever** Have you **ever** had guitar lessons?
- **never** I've **never** understood why they give us so much homework!
- **it's the first time** **It's the first time** we've watched a video in class.

Watch out!

- We don't use the present perfect simple when we want to say **when** something happened in the past. We use the past simple.
✓ I **did** my homework **last night**.
- We don't use the past simple when we want to show that something happened **before now** or is **still important now**. We use the present perfect simple.
✓ I've **finished**! Can I go home now?
- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

Present perfect continuous

Form

have/has + been + -ing

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) been studying** ...I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) been studying** ...**Have** I/you/we/they **been studying** ...?He/she/it **has ('s) been studying** ... He/she/it **has not (hasn't) been studying** ... **Has** he/she/it **been studying** ...

Use

Example

Actions continuing up to now or just before now

*We've **been doing** grammar exercises for over an hour.*

Can we have a break now?

*They're having a break now because they've **been working** so hard.*

Helpful hints

The present perfect continuous is often used with the following words:

- **for** I've been learning English **for** over three years.
- **since** He's been learning Chinese **since** 2004.
- **just** I've **just** been reading the school newspaper.

Watch out!

- The present perfect simple often emphasises the result of an action:
✓ She's **written** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's finished it.)
- The present perfect continuous often emphasises the action, and the time spent on the action, rather than the result:
✓ She's **been writing** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's started, but she hasn't finished it yet.)

- B** Choose the correct answer.

- C** Look at the picture and use the prompts to write sentences. Use the correct form of the present perfect simple.

- 6 Dave / drop / pen / on the floor
- 7 he / not / pick it up / yet

D Complete using the correct present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms where possible.

Mandy: Hi Matt. How are you? What (1) (you / do) recently?

Matt: Oh, hi Mandy! Well, (2) (I / study) for my exams.

Mandy: That sounds boring! (3) (you / work) hard?

Matt: Very! Basically, (4) (I / just / sit) at my desk in my bedroom for the past three weeks and (5) (I / not / go) out at all. (6) (I / work) with Michael, my best friend, some of the time, though, so at least I've had some company. How about you?

Mandy: Well, my mum and (7) (I / paint) my bedroom for the last few days. That has been fun! And (8) (we / also / plan) our summer holiday.

Matt: Great! Where are you going?

Mandy: Well, we haven't decided yet. (9) (We / look) at different places to see which we like best.

Matt: I'm sure you'll have a great time, wherever you go. Oh, by the way, (10) (I / think) of having a party when I finish my exams. Would you like to come?

Mandy: Sure! That would be great!

E Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I think I've **heard** / **been hearing** that song before.
- 2 They haven't **arrived** / **been arriving** yet, but they should be here soon.
- 3 You've **written** / **been writing** that e-mail for over an hour. How long is it going to take you?
- 4 Have you **talked** / **been talking** on the phone since eight o'clock?
- 5 Jo has already **invited** / **been inviting** Shirley to dinner.
- 6 I've **read** / **been reading** an interview with Brad Pitt, but I haven't finished it yet.
- 7 Have the boys **played** / **been playing** computer games since this morning?

F Complete using the words in the box.

already • ever • for • just • never • since • yet

- 1 I haven't listened to their new CD Is it any good?
- 2 We've been waiting for you over an hour. Where have you been?
- 3 Have you been to the UK before?
- 4 I'm afraid we've made plans for this weekend, so we won't be free.
- 5 Pedro has been having English lessons he was five years old.
- 6 It's strange that you mention the film *Crash*. I've been reading about it in the paper.
- 7 I've heard of a 'sudoku'. What is it?