Unit 9

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A It has been raining

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?
No, but the ground is wet.

It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous:*

I/we/they/you	**have**	(= I**'ve** etc.)	**been**	**doing**
he/she/it	**has**	(= he**'s** etc.)		**waiting**
				playing etc.

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with *now:*

- You're out of breath. **Have** you **been running**? (= you're out of breath *now*)
- Paul is very tired. He**'s been working** very hard. (= he's tired *now*)
- Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have** you **been doing**?
- I**'ve been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
- Where have you been? I**'ve been looking** for you everywhere.

B It has been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has** it **been raining**?
It **has been raining** for two hours.

We use the present perfect continuous in this way especially with **how long**, **for** ... and **since** ... . The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- **How long have** you **been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- Tim is still watching TV. He**'s been watching** TV **all day**.
- Where have you been? I**'ve been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

- Silvia is a very good tennis player. She**'s been playing since she was eight**.
- Every morning they meet in the same cafe. They**'ve been going** there **for years**.

C

Compare **I am doing** (see Unit 1) and **I have been doing**:

I am doing
present continuous
↓
now

- Don't disturb me now. I**'m working**.
- We need an umbrella. It**'s raining**.
- Hurry up! We**'re waiting**.

I have been doing
present perfect continuous
now

- I**'ve been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- The ground is wet. It**'s been raining**.
- We**'ve been waiting** for an hour.

Present perfect continuous and simple → **Units 10–11** Present perfect + for/since → Units 11–12

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Exercises

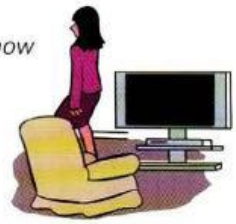
9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

1 *earlier* *now*




They 've been shopping.

2 *earlier* *now*

She .....

3 *earlier* *now*




They .....

4 *earlier* *now*




He .....

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

1 You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
2 You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?) .....
3 You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?) .....
4 A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?) .....
5 A friend tells you about his job – he sells mobile phones. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / sell / mobile phones?) .....

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

1 It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
2 We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We ..... for 20 minutes.
3 I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I ..... since December.
4 Jessica is working in a supermarket. She started working there on 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
5 Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous **(I am -ing)** or present perfect continuous **(I have been -ing)**.

1 Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
2 Hello, Tom. ..... (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
3 Why ..... (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
4 Linda is a teacher. ..... (she / teach) for ten years.
5 ..... (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
6 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, ... (he / work).'
7 Sarah is very tired. ..... (she / work) very hard recently.

LIVEWORKSHEETS