

# Grammar reference

## 1

### PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS

Present perfect simple: *have* + past participle

positive	negative	question
I've <b>read</b> the article in a newspaper.	She <b>hasn't had</b> lunch.	Have they <b>arrived</b> yet?

Present perfect continuous: *have been* + present participle

positive	negative	question
I've been <b>watching</b> the match.	She <b>hasn't been waiting</b> long.	Have they <b>been working</b> with you?

Both the **present perfect simple** and **present perfect continuous** talk about something which started in the past.

- The present perfect simple is a completed action which has a result in the present:  
*She's passed her driving test, so now she can take the children to the day care centre herself.*
- The present perfect continuous is an action which is still happening now:  
*They've been working hard on their presentation, but it isn't finished yet.*

The two tenses are often very similar in their usage. However:

present perfect simple	present perfect continuous
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• emphasises the result: <i>They've worked on the environmental project all week and they're going to present the final version tomorrow.</i></li><li>• focuses on how much of an activity is complete: <i>I've listened to all of the audio novels you recommended.</i></li><li>• may give the idea that something is permanent (and may be accompanied by a time expression which shows this): <i>She's been a lecturer in the science department for well over twenty years and she is still actively involved in research.</i></li><li>• focuses on how many times an action has been repeated: <i>We've watched that programme about celebrities several times.</i></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• emphasises the action: <i>They've been working on the environmental project all week, but they've still got some way to go.</i></li><li>• focuses on how long an activity has been in progress: <i>I've been listening to the audio novels you recommended and I've still got two left.</i></li><li>• may give the idea that something is temporary (and may be accompanied by a time expression which shows this): <i>She's been working here part-time this week, but she goes back to her normal job on Monday.</i></li><li>• focuses on the process of change over a period of time and that the changes are not finished: <i>My use of grammar has been getting more accurate since I started testing myself.</i></li></ul>
<p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>Some verbs are not used in the continuous form, e.g. <i>know, hate, understand, want</i>.</p> <p><i>I've known Guy for a long time.</i> (NOT: <i>I've been knowing Guy for a long time.</i>)</p> <p><i>I've understood everything you've outlined.</i> (NOT: <i>I've been understanding everything you've outlined.</i>)</p>	

## PRACTICE

1 Complete the sentences with either the present perfect simple or continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

1 I ..... (prepare) my presentation on mammals all week, but I ..... (not finish) it yet.

2 What ..... (you do)? Your hands are covered in dirt.

3 Your parents ..... (look) exhausted recently. Have they ..... (work) too much?

4 I ..... (not complete) my essay yet, because I ..... (chill out) in the garden for over an hour.

5 Have you got a plaster? I ..... (do) some work around the house and I ..... (damage) the nail on my thumb quite badly.

6 I ..... (be) to Spain several times this year. Every visit was really outstanding.

7 Recently the government ..... (become) more aware of the need to promote music education.

8 I ..... (change) a wheel on my car, so I'm not really in the mood to go out.

2 Tick the correct sentences. Correct the sentences with mistakes.

1 The surgeon has just finished a nine-hour operation, so he's exhausted.

2 We have lived in Berlin for two years and before that we lived in London for five years.

3 I have finally been learning how to use the passive in English. I feel over the moon that I can do it at last.

4 I can see that he has eaten too much recently. He's gained a lot of weight.

- 5 The rain has been pouring down all day, so I chose to stay indoors.
- 6 They haven't mastered Chinese, but they can communicate at a basic level. That's an incredible achievement!
- 7 They have browsed for jobs in sport management for over four hours and still haven't found anything.
- 8 I have gone to the weight lifting session every weekend for years.

3 Make sentences with either the present perfect simple or continuous.

- 1 Scientists / discover / vaccines / to cure / many fatal illnesses.
- 2 He / not put / his recent qualifications on his CV / yet.
- 3 Wake up! You / sleep for / over two hours now.
- 4 We all feel thirsty, / because / as usual / not / drink enough / during training.
- 5 She / know him / since / he was a small child.
- 6 It snow / heavily / all morning / and as a result / the roads / are slippery now.