

GRAMMAR Present perfect continuous

1 Write sentences with the present perfect continuous, using these words.

1 You / play / that game / for hours!

2 Sam and Sara / amuse / themselves / all day.

3 We need to find out what / cause / the computer to crash.

4 How long / you / learn / Spanish?

5 she / cry for long?

6 No, I / not / use / your computer.

2 Choose the correct perfect forms.

1 I've *thought* / *been thinking* – we should get a new computer.

2 She's never *used* / *been using* an iPad before.

3 This is the first time they've *visited* / *been visiting* London.

4 The sun has *shone* / *been shining* all day today.

5 Have you *waited* / *been waiting* here for long?

6 Sorry, I haven't *finished* / *been finishing* my homework yet.

7 You look exhausted. What have you *done* / *been doing*?

8 How long have they *known* / *been knowing* each other?

3 Complete the conversation with the verbs in brackets in the present perfect continuous.

A: What's that you're wearing?

B: This? It's a pedometer – it measures the distance I run. It's really useful.

A: Oh. ¹ (you / use) it for long?

B: Yes, since I started running. I ² (run) every day for two years now.

A: To keep fit?

B: Yes, but I enjoy it. I ³ (train) for a half-marathon recently.

A: Wow! How long do you run every day?

B: Well, today I ⁴ (jog) for about an hour, but I'm going to stop now.

A: Oh, good. I ⁵ (intend) to ask you about my party next weekend. Can we discuss it now?

4 Complete the email with the present perfect simple or continuous of the verb in brackets.

Hi Mary

How are you? I ¹ (not hear) from you for ages.

What ² (you / do)?

I ³ (just have) some great news! I ⁴

..... (be) accepted at the university in my home town to study computing. You know I ⁵

..... (program) computers since I was twelve years old and I ⁶

..... (want) to build a career in computers for ages – well now it's time to start studying seriously!

The trouble is, I'm so excited that I ⁷

..... (not sleep) very well since I heard. I'm working in a café at the moment, and I ⁸

..... (arrive) late a couple of times already. My boss ⁹

..... (already warn) me twice, and if I'm late again, I'll lose my job. I don't care too much – I ¹⁰

..... (save) quite a lot of money already.

I have to go now. Dad ¹¹

..... (ask) me all week to set up his new printer in his office, so that's what I'm going to do now. Then I'm going for a bike ride. It looks like it ¹²

..... (rain), because the roads are wet – but the sun's shining now.

Write soon!

Jackie

5 Correct the mistakes in these sentences or put a tick (✓) by any you think are correct.

1 I study English for two years.

2 I have been playing football since I was a child, and I like it very much.

3 I like children and I have been working in a similar job before.

4 I haven't written for so long, but I have been studying for my exams.

5 I was thinking about the ideas you suggested, but I haven't decided yet.