

The Perfect Aspect

EXERCISES

1 Choose the best options to complete the sentences.

- 1 I haven't *had / been having* this book for very long. In fact I've *already / just* bought it.
- 2 We've *owned / been owning* this car *for / since* three years.
- 3 I used to see Peter every morning on the train, but I haven't *seen / been seeing* him *recently / yet*.
- 4 Have you *lived / been living* in this house *for / just* a long time?
- 5 Are you *still working / Have you worked* on your project or have you *already / since* finished it?
- 6 She's *arrived / been arriving* at the office late *yet / all week*.
- 7 I've *tried / been trying* to find my keys *for / since* an hour.
- 8 I haven't *used / been using* my computer *since / all* last Tuesday.

2 Rewrite these sentences in the present perfect continuous. Use the verb and time expressions in brackets.

- 1 My sister *repairs* bicycles. She started when she was a kid. (*repair, since*)
My sister _____.
- 2 James is *using* the washing machine again. He's used the washing machine every day this week. (*use, all*)
James _____.
- 3 How much longer until we *get* to New York? We left London five hours ago. (*fly, already, for*)
How much longer until we *get* to New York? We _____.
- 4 Aren't they hungry? They *started* work at nine o'clock! (*work, since*)
Aren't they hungry? They _____.
- 5 I *live* in this apartment. I moved here twelve months ago. (*live, all*)
I've _____.

3 Choose the correct form of the verb.

- 1 I'd never *been using / used* Skype before you suggested it.
- 2 He'd *been starting / started* saving for his daughter's university education before she finished primary school.
- 3 They hadn't *been turning on / turned on* their air conditioning once in five years, so they got rid of it.
- 4 You'd *been working / You've been working* there for ten years by the time you left, hadn't you?
- 5 Until I bumped into Alexi last week, I *didn't see / hadn't seen* her since we left university.
- 6 It's going well but we *haven't finished / didn't finish* painting the bedroom yet.

4 Complete the sentences using the future perfect simple or continuous form of the verb.

- 1 How long _____ (we / drive) by the time we reach Los Angeles?
- 2 She _____ (not complete) her degree before she starts her job.
- 3 By the time I retire next month I _____ (not have) a single day off in ten years.
- 4 I don't think we need to rush. Jason and Jessie _____ (not arrive) yet.
- 5 By the end of this afternoon, you _____ (talk) for about three hours, so your voice will need a rest.
- 6 _____ (you / study) English for six years by the time you move to New York?
- 7 I need to speak to Claire. Do you think they _____ (finish) the meeting by now?
- 8 Ross _____ (not see) the new Bond film already, will he?

5 Complete the text using the correct perfect form of the verb. Use the continuous where possible.

My partner and I ¹ _____ (just / decide) to have an adventure and go sailing around the world. In a year we ² _____ (sell) our house where we ³ _____ (live) for 18 years now, and if all goes well, we ⁴ _____ (sail) for a month by this time next year. I'm excited because until we started planning this trip I ⁵ _____ (never do) anything adventurous, even though before our first child was born ⁶ _____ (talk) about doing something like this. We ⁷ _____ (have) sailing lessons for 18 months now but we ⁸ _____ (not complete) our training for another 6 months.