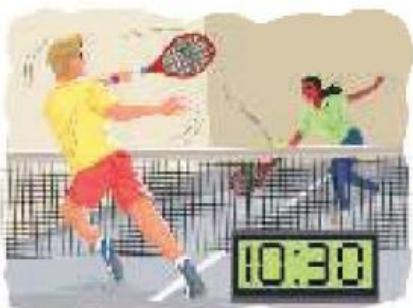


Past continuous (I was doing)

A Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Joe played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.

So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

they **were playing** =

they were in the middle of playing, they had not finished

was/were + -ing is the past continuous:

he/she/it	was	playing
we/you/they	were	doing working etc.

B **I was doing** something = I was in the middle of doing it at a certain time. The action or situation started before this time, but had not finished:



- This time last year I **was living** in Hong Kong.
- What **were** you **doing** at 10 o'clock last night?
- I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**.

C Compare **I was doing** (past continuous) and **I did** (past simple):

I was doing (= in the middle of an action)

- We were **walking** home when I met Dan. (in the middle of walking home)
- Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

I did (= complete action)

- We **walked** home after the party last night. (= all the way, completely)
- Kate **watched** TV a lot when she was ill last year.

D You can say that something **happened** (past simple) in the middle of something else (past continuous):

- Matt **phoned** while we **were having** dinner.
- It **was raining** when I **got up**.
- I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

But we use the past simple to say that one thing happened *after* another:

- I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** Dan. So I **stopped**, and we **talked** for a while.

Compare:

- When Karen arrived, we **were having** dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived)

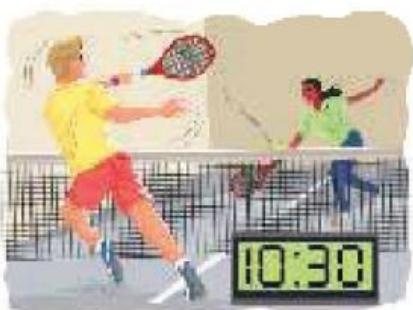
- When Karen arrived, we **had** dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner)

E Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in continuous forms (**is + -ing**, **was + -ing** etc.). See Unit 4A for a list of these verbs.

- We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (not we were knowing)
- I was enjoying the party, but Chris **wanted** to go home. (not was wanting)

Past continuous (I was doing)

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Exercises

6.1 Complete the sentences. Choose from:

was looking was wearing wasn't listening weren't looking
was snowing was working were sitting were you going

- 1 Today Helen is wearing a skirt. Yesterday she was wearing trousers.
- 2 'What did he say?' 'I don't know. I'
- 3 We at the back of the theatre. We couldn't hear very well.
- 4 This time last year Steve on a farm.
- 5 They didn't see me. They in my direction.
- 6 The weather was bad. It was very cold and it
- 7 I saw you in your car. Where ?
- 8 I saw Kate a few minutes ago. She for you.

6.2 Which goes with which?

- 1 When I got to the cafe
- 2 We fell asleep
- 3 Amy learnt Italian
- 4 Tom didn't come out with us
- 5 The car began to make a strange noise
- 6 The TV was on
- 7 When I first met Jessica

- a when she was living in Rome.
- b she was working in a clothes shop.
- c when I was driving home.
- d but nobody was watching it.
- e while we were watching a film.
- f my friends were waiting for me.
- g because he wasn't feeling well.

- 1 f
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7

6.3 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



I saw (see) Sue in town yesterday, but she (not/see) me. She (look) the other way.



I (cycle) home yesterday when a man (step) out into the road in front of me. I (go) quite fast, but luckily I (manage) to stop in time, and I (not/hit) him.

6.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.

- 1 Jenny was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (arrive).
- 2 'What (you / do) at this time yesterday?' 'I was asleep.'
- 3 ' (you / go) out last night?' 'No, I was too tired.'
- 4 How fast (you / drive) when the accident (happen)?
- 5 Sam (take) a picture of me while I (not / look).
- 6 We were in a very difficult position. We (not / know) what to do, so we (do) nothing.
- 7 I haven't seen Alan for ages. When I last (see) him, he (try) to find a job.
- 8 I (walk) along the street when suddenly I (hear) something behind me. Somebody (follow) me. I was scared and I (start) to run.
- 9 When I was young, I (want) to be a pilot. Later I (change) my mind.
- 10 Last night I (drop) a plate when I (do) the washing up. Fortunately it (not / break).

→ Additional exercise 1 (page 302)

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom can't find his key.
He's **lost** his key. (= He **has lost** ...)

he **has lost** his key =
he lost it and he doesn't have it now

have lost / has lost is the present perfect simple:

I/we/they/you **have** (=I've etc.)

finished
lost
done
been etc.

he/she/it **has** (= he's etc.)

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (**finished/decided** etc.), but many verbs are **irregular** (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B When we say 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (= There **has been** ...)
- Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result **now**:

- Tom **has lost** his key. (= he doesn't have it **now**)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it **now**)
- Sally is still here. She **hasn't gone** out. (= she is here **now**)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= do you know where it is **now**?)

Compare **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Amy is back home now. She **has been** to Italy. (= she has now come back)

C You can use the present perfect with **just, already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

Already = sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to pay the bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. We use **yet** to show that we are expecting something to happen.

We use **yet** in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

D You can also use the past simple (**did, went, had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- Ben isn't here. He's **gone** out. or He **went** out.
- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I **just had** lunch.'

» Present perfect → Units 8, 11 been to → Units 8A, 126A Present perfect continuous → Units 9–10
Present perfect and past → Units 12–14 yet and already → Unit 111 American English → Appendix 7

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and complete the sentences using the present perfect. Choose from these verbs:

break **disappear** **go up** **grow** **improve** **lose** **shrink** **stop**

- 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
- 2 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.
- 3 My bag was here, but it isn't here any more.
- 4 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster.
- 5 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2.
- 6 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.
- 7 It was raining ten minutes ago. It isn't raining now.
- 8 I washed my sweater, and now it's too small for me.

Tom has lost his key.

Her English

My bag

Lisa

The bus fare

Dan

It

My sweater

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- 1 My parents are on holiday. They've gone to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Tom has just out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 4 Alice isn't here at the moment. I don't know where she's
- 5 You're very late. Where have you ?

7.3 Complete the sentences using the present perfect.

- 1 Sally is still here. She hasn't gone (she / not / go) out.
- 2 I can't find my bag. (you / see / it) anywhere?
- 3 I can't log on to the website. (I / forget) my password.
- 4 I sent Joe an email this morning, but (he / not / reply).
- 5 Is the meeting still going on, or (it / finish)?
- 6 (the weather / change). It's colder now.
- 7 (you / not / sign) the form. Could you sign it now, please?
- 8 Are your friends still here, or (they / go) home?
- 9 Paul doesn't know what he's going to do. (he / not / decide / yet).
- 10 'Do you know where Julia is?' 'Yes, (I / just / see / her).'
- 11 'When is David going away?' ' (he / already / go).'
- 12 A: (your course / start / yet)?
B: Not yet. It starts next week.

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- 1 After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?' You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch . (have lunch)
- 2 Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?' You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- 3 You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- 4 You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- 5 You know that Lisa is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. You ask her: ? (find)
- 6 You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- 7 Laura went out, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Laura still out?' You say: No, (come back)

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

DAVE: Have you **travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? Have you ever **been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been** / **have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane **has visited** in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

In the same way we say:

- Have you ever eaten** caviar?
- We've never **had** a car.
- I don't know what the film is about. I **haven't seen** it.
- Susan really loves that book. She's **read** it three times. (She's = She **has**)
- It's a really boring movie. It's the most boring movie I've **ever seen**.

been (to) = visited:

- I've never **been to** Canada. Have you **been** there?

B

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently**, **in the last few days**, **so far**, **since I arrived** etc.):

- Have you heard** anything from Ben **recently**?
- I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- Everything is going well. There **haven't been** any problems **so far**.
- The weather is bad here. It's (=It **has**) **rained** every day **since I arrived**. (=from when I arrived until now)
- It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.



In the same way we use the present perfect with **today**, **this evening**, **this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking:

- I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- Have you had** a holiday **this year**?
- I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. Have you?



C

We say 'It's the (first) time something **has happened**'. For example:

Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first lesson.
 We can say:

- It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)
- or He **hasn't driven** a car **before**.
- or He **has never driven** a car **before**.

This is the first time
I've driven a car.

In the same way we say:

- Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- Andy is phoning his girlfriend again. It's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with **ever**.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen have have meet play read see try

A

- 1 What's Mark's sister like?
- 2 Is everything going well?
- 3 Are you hungry?
- 4 Can you play chess?
- 5 Are you enjoying your holiday?
- 6 What's that book about?
- 7 Is Brussels an interesting place?
- 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday.
- 9 Do you like caviar?
- 10 Mike was late for work again today.
- 11 Who's that woman by the door?

B

I've no idea. I've never met ... her.

Yes, we haven't had any problems so far.

Yes. I much today.

Yes, but for ages.

Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time.

I don't know. it.

I've no idea. there.

Yes, it's the second time this month.

I don't know. it.

Again? He late every day this week.

I don't know. her before.

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use **I haven't** and choose from the boxes.

used a computer travelled by bus eaten any fruit
been to the cinema read a book lost anything

- 1 I haven't used a computer today.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

today
this week
recently
for ages
since ...
this year

8.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 Jack is driving a car for the first time. He's very nervous and not sure what to do.
It's the first time he's driven a car.
- 2 Some children at the zoo are looking at a giraffe. They've never seen one before.
It's the first time a giraffe.
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
She before.
- 4 Joe and Lisa are on holiday in Japan. They've been to Japan once before.
This is the second time
- 5 Emily is staying at the Prince Hotel. She stayed there a few years ago.
It's not the first this hotel.
- 6 Ben is playing tennis for the first time. He's a complete beginner.
..... before.