

5

Present Perfect Continuous



13 Listen and repeat. Then act out.



Form: **has / has been + verb -ing**

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I have been working You have been working He has been working She has been working It has been working We have been working You have been working They have been working	Have I been working? Have you been working? Has he been working? Has she been working? Has it been working? Have we been working? Have you been working? Have they been working?	I have not been working You have not been working He has not been working She has not been working It has not been working We have not been working You have not been working They have not been working
Short form	Negative-Interrogative	Short form
I've been working ...	Haven't you been working? ...	I haven't been working ...

1

Fill in the **present perfect continuous** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 He has been playing (play) football with his friends all afternoon.
- 2 They (watch) a comedy for over an hour.
- 3 Annie (do) her homework since 10 o'clock this morning.
- 4 How long (he/work) as a doctor?
- 5 The children (study) since breakfast.
- 6 We (think) of buying a house since last year.
- 7 (you/feel) ill for a long time?
- 8 Chris (try) to fix the motorbike since Tuesday.

Present Perfect Continuous is used:

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present.



They **have been making biscuits** since 11 o'clock. (They're still making biscuits.)

- for past actions of certain duration which have visible results or effects, **in the present**.

Bob is very tired. He **has been working** all day long.

- to express irritation, anger, annoyance, explanation or criticism.

Who **has been reading** my business papers? (showing anger)

- to put emphasis on duration, usually with **for, since or how long**.

I've **been typing** letters **since** 9 o'clock.

Note

With the verbs **live, feel and work** we can use either Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous with no difference in meaning.

I've **been living** in London for a year.

or I've **lived** in London for a year.

Present Perfect is used:

- for actions recently completed.



They **have made** a lot of biscuits.
(The biscuits are on the plate, so the action has finished.)

- for actions which happened at an **unstated time**.

James **has bought** a new car.

- to express personal experiences or changes which have happened.

I've **lost** a lot of weight.

- to put emphasis on number.

I've only **typed** three letters **since** 9 o'clock.

Time adverbs used with Present Perfect Continuous:

for, since, how long

Time adverbs and expressions used with Present Perfect:

just, ever, never, always, already, yet, for, since, so far, how long, recently, today, this week / month / year, once, etc.

5

Present Perfect Continuous

2

Identify the speech situations, then complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *present perfect continuous*.

recently completed action
unstated time

anger or annoyance
emphasis on duration

personal experience
visible results

1 *visible results*



He ... *has been painting* ...
(paint) his room.

2



She
..... (just/win) the race.

3



.....
..... (you/read) my
emails again?

4



They
..... (plant) trees
since morning.

5



He
..... (try) skiing.

6



They
..... (buy) a pet dog.

3

Put the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *present perfect continuous*.

• A: My back hurts.

B: That's because you 1) *have been working* (work) all day.

A: I know. But at least I 2) (finish) with the gardening.

• A: You look tired. What 3) (you/do)?

B: I 4) (play) tennis with Evita.

A: Oh yes. I 5) (see) her play before. She's good, isn't she?

B: Yes, she is. She 6) (beat) me five times since the start of summer.