

## Present perfect simple and continuous

### Present perfect continuous

#### Affirmative

I / You / We / They've been playing.

#### Negative

I / You / We / They haven't been playing.

He / She / It's been playing.

He / She / It hasn't been playing.

The present perfect continuous is made with *have* or *has* + *been* followed by the *-ing* form of the main verb.

#### Questions

Have I / you / we / they been waiting?

Has he / she / it been waiting?

#### Short answers

##### Affirmative

Yes, I / you / we / they have.

Yes, he / she / it has.

##### Negative

No, I / you / we / they haven't.

No, he / she / it hasn't.

### a Write the words and phrases in the correct column.

six years 1992 Friday the last three days  
ages a long time Christmas I last saw you  
months and months he was a child

for

since

six years

### b Complete the dialogues with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.



1 A Haven't you finished yet?

B No, I'm exhausted! I \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the house for hours!



2 A Have you finished that report?

B Not yet. I \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on it for three days.

### Use

The present perfect simple implies that an action is complete.

I've read this hilarious book. (= I've finished it)

The present perfect continuous implies that an action is not complete and might continue.

I've been reading this hilarious book. (= I haven't finished it and I'll continue reading it)

Verbs that have the idea of a very long time or repeated action are often used in the present perfect continuous: *wait, learn, try, rain, play, work*.  
I've been waiting for ages!

Verbs that have the idea of a short time or single action are often used in the present perfect simple: *cut, stop, finish, start, break, die, lose, buy*.  
She's cut her finger.

Remember that stative verbs are only used with the simple form. These include: *believe, belong, own, have (=possess), hate, imagine, know, like, love, prefer, remember, think, understand, want*.  
I've known Helena for three years.



3 A Dinner isn't ready yet.

B What \_\_\_\_\_ (you / do) for the last two hours?

A I \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) the vegetables!



4 A He doesn't look very happy.

B No, he \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to repair his computer all morning.



5 A Why are you moving?

B We \_\_\_\_\_ (think) of moving for a long time. This house is too small.