

Present perfect simple and continuous

Present perfect continuous

Affirmative	Negative
I / You / We / They've been playing.	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	Short answers	
	Affirmative	Negative
Have I / you / we / they been waiting?	Yes, I / you / we / they have.	No, I / you / we / they haven't.
Has he / she / it been waiting?	Yes, he / she / it has.	No, he / she / it hasn't.

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*.

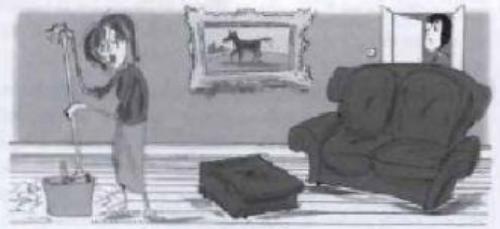
I've **known** Helena for three years.

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 have been cleaning (clean) the house for hours!



2 A Have you finished that report?
B Not yet. I haven't worked (work) on it for three days.



3 A Dinner isn't ready yet.
B What have you been doing (you / do) for the last two hours?
A I have been preparing (prepare) the vegetables!



4 A He doesn't look very happy.
B No, he hasn't been trying (try) to repair his computer all morning.



5 A Why are you moving?
B We haven't thought (think) of moving for a long time. This house is too small.