

# Present Perfect Simple and Continuous



## REFERENCE

We use both the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous to talk about situations or actions which started in the past and continue into the present.

Sometimes there is no important difference between the two tenses, particularly with verbs such as **work, live, and study**:

- **Example:** Mauro has lived/has been living in Bologna since 2010.

However, there are also some important differences between the two.

### 1. Focusing on the Result of the Activity

- **Present Perfect Simple:** Focus on the result of a completed activity.
  - **Example:** He's passed all his exams. (Focus on the result—passing the exams)
- **Present Perfect Continuous:** Focus on the activity itself.
  - **Example:** He's been studying for his exams. (Focus on the activity of studying)

### 2. How Many vs. How Long

- **Present Perfect Simple:** Used to answer the questions "How many?", "How much?", or "Who for?".
  - **Examples:**
    - I've interviewed more than 100 applicants. (How many?)
    - He's raised £1,000 for charity. (How much?)
- **Present Perfect Continuous:** Used to answer the question "How long?" and to emphasize that an action has continued for a long time.
  - **Examples:**
    - We've driven over 3,000 kilometres. (How far?)
    - She's been working for that company for ten years. (How long?)

### 3. Unfinished Actions

- **Present Perfect Simple:** Describe completed actions.
  - **Examples:**
    - We use the present perfect simple to describe actions that are unfinished.

- I haven't finished the essay yet.
- Actions that are completed but have relevance to the present.
  - Oh no, we've missed the bus.
  - The bus hasn't gone yet. (So there is still time to catch it)
- **Present Perfect Continuous:** Describe actions that are still continuing.
  - **Examples:**
    - I've been writing this essay all morning.
    - The bus hasn't been going for long.
    - She's been trying to open that door since lunchtime.

## PRACTICE EXERCISES

**Exercise 1: Choose the correct word(s) to complete these sentences.**

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (have watched / have been watching) this amazing series recently.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ (has worked / has been working) in the same company for five years.
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (have known / have been knowing) each other since childhood.
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ (have been working / have worked) hard on this project.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ (haven't been meeting / haven't met) him since last year.
6. I'm probably seen \_\_\_\_\_ (seeing / been seeing) that show before.
7. He \_\_\_\_\_ (has interviewed / has been interviewing) more than 100 applicants.

**Exercise 2: Complete the sentences with the correct present perfect simple or continuous form of the verb in brackets.**

1. I think he \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his leg.
2. Tom, oh no! I \_\_\_\_\_ (spill) coffee all morning.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ (try) skiing.
4. How many invitations \_\_\_\_\_ (you send) so far?
5. Jane \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive) yet?
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (know) them for a long time.
7. I'm worried about Hetty. She \_\_\_\_\_ (not eat) anything today.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ (work) on this project for three months.
9. Sally \_\_\_\_\_ (study) for her exams for weeks.

**Exercise 3: Use the answers and the verbs in bold to make sentences in both forms of the present perfect.**

1. (how long / develop this software?)
2. (play golf on Saturdays)
3. (how long / teach?)
4. (how many / watch?)