

- (b) To show an action that started in the past and is still continuing. It is used with *for, since, ever, never* etc.
- (c) To show actions that have happened in the past at an unspecified time, usually with words like *before, ever* or *finally*.
- (d) To show actions that are repeated or habitual.
- (e) To show unfinished time (*today, this week, this month, etc.*)

We **have lived** in this humble abode for the past two years.
 Sam **has worked** in this firm since three months ago.
 I **have** finally **contacted** Lily.
 Din **has worked** for the firm before.
Have you ever **been** to Cameron Highlands?
 They **have** always **helped** the needy.
 Jude **hasn't tried** his new motorcycle today.
 We **haven't eaten** out this week.

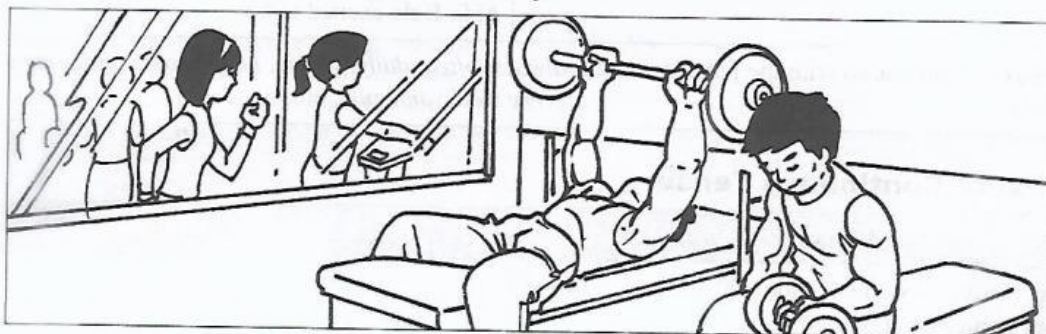
1.4 Present Perfect Continuous

Usage	Example
(a) Shows an action which started in the past and is still continuing	The landscaper has been beautifying the garden for the past few days.
(b) Shows a repeated action	Doris has been complaining about her injured heels.
(c) Emphasises the duration or 'how long' with <i>since</i> or <i>for</i>	Dorai has been working for the company for the past ten years.

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

Exercise A

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.



Exercise is very important to our general health. Yet most people 1 not exercise. Many of them 2 that they have no time to exercise. In truth, exercise 3 only about thirty minutes a day, a few times a week, to keep you fit and healthy. If you are still not convinced, 4 on. Regular exercise 5 us feel and look good by improving our strength, stamina and muscle tone. Our respiratory and cardiovascular systems 6 too, thus reducing the risks of heart diseases. Exercise also 7 lower our blood cholesterol. Furthermore, exercise 8 us to control our weight and keep a slim waistline. It also 9 body flexibility and delays signs of ageing. Exercise makes us sleep better and 10 our concentration power.

Choose the best answer from the options given.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. A does | C will | 3. A takes | C is taking |
| B do | D have | B has taken | D take |
| 2. A say | C are saying | 4. A reads | C reading |
| B have said | D said | B read | D has been reading |

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 5. A is making | C makes | 8. A enables | C is enabling |
| B has made | D make | B enable | D has enabled |
| 6. A is benefiting | C benefited | 9. A preserve | C has preserved |
| B has benefited | D benefit | B is preserving | D preserves |
| 7. A will help | C helps | 10. A is improving | C improve |
| B is helping | D has helped | B improves | D has improved |

Exercise B

Choose the best answer from the options A, B, C or D.

- Cartoons _____ mainly to young children. Some _____ very educational.
A appeals, have been
B have appealed, are
C appeal, are
D are appealing, have been
- My grandmother _____ very pious and she _____ twice a day.
A has been, has prayed
B is, prays
C is being, is praying
D is, is praying
- Most boys _____ outdoor games that _____ physical effort and skill.
A like, need
B have liked, need
C are liking, is needing
D like, has needed
- Whatever it _____, customs _____ part and parcel of our life in this region.
A has been, has become
B does, become
C has been, are becoming
D is, have become
- If you _____ to excel, you _____ to walk the extra mile.
A want, have
B have wanted, have
C are wanting, are
D want, are having
- The hosts _____ for the guests to arrive. They _____ their 15th wedding anniversary.
A wait, celebrate
B have waited, are celebrating
C are waiting, have celebrated
D are waiting, are celebrating
- You must act fast. _____, he who _____ is lost.
A Remembering, has hesitated
B Remember, is hesitating
C Remember, hesitates
D Having remembered, hesitates
- Don is sorry for what he _____. He _____ to apologise to us.
A does, wants
B has done, wants
C has done, is wanting
D is doing, is wanting
- Yusni _____ the brochures and booklets on the tables while Rita _____ up posters and charts on the softboard.
A is arranging, is putting
B arranges, is putting
C has arranged, puts
D arranges, has put
- The police _____ the case. We _____ very relieved.
A are solving, have been
B have solved, are
C solve, are
D have solved, have been
- Neither Nora nor you _____ part in the contest. We _____ someone with more experience.
A has taken, need
B are taking, are needing
C take, have needed
D have taken, need

12. I heard that you _____ for a new job. I _____ you will be successful.
 A apply, hope
 B have applied, have hoped
 C are applying, hope
 D apply, are hoping
13. Mr Wong _____ his house a new facelift. It _____ much brighter now.
 A is giving, has looked
 B has given, looks
 C gives, has looked
 D gives, is looking
14. Although we _____ to Cameron Highlands, we _____ to go there again next month.
 A have been, intend
 B are going, intend
 C go, intend
 D have gone, are intending
15. Eugene and Lily _____ each other for the past ten years. They _____ to get married next year.
 A know, are planning
 B are knowing, plan
 C have known, plan
 D are knowing, have planned

SUBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

Exercise A

Fill in each of the blanks with the simple present, present continuous or present perfect tense of the verb provided.

Examples: (a) Jenny often _____ the compound in the evening. (sweep)
 Jenny often _____ sweeps _____ the compound in the evening. (sweep)
 (b) The secretary _____ out a letter at this moment. (type)
 The secretary _____ is typing _____ out a letter at this moment. (type)
 (c) The maid _____ meticulously _____ the whole house. (clean)
 The maid _____ has _____ meticulously _____ cleaned _____ the whole house. (clean)

- Children in Asian countries generally _____ skills in conversation. (lack)
- We _____ out our recycling activity once a fortnight. (carry)
- Alphones _____ a seminar at the moment. (attend)
- Some occupants _____ for help from the burning house. (scream)
- We _____ the island before. I _____ some other place. (visit, prefer)
- I'm afraid we _____ to extend our invitation to Mr Tan. (forget)
- Grandma _____ the newspapers daily and _____ herself well abreast with the current affairs. (read, keep)
- The introvert _____ counselling as he _____ to himself most of the time. (need, keep)
- The main range _____ almost parallel to the coast and _____ for about 450 kilometres. (run, stretch)
- Aida _____ married to Roslan next month. She _____ all of us. (get, invite)
- I _____ my neighbour a few times since last year. He _____ from his depression gradually. (help, recover)

12. I _____ the matter to the authorities already. I _____ they will take action soon. (report, hope)
13. Both James and Jenny _____ their entry forms although they _____ one more day to do so. (submit, have)
14. When _____ you _____ to claim your prize? You _____ only one week more to do so. (go, have)
15. Mrs Loo still _____ to market daily. She _____ it as an exercise. (walk, treat)

Exercise B

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the present tense.

1. Dad always _____ the marketing whereas Mum always _____ the shopping. (do, do)
2. Agnes _____ for June for the past thirty minutes. She _____ why she is late. (wait, wonder)
3. Since the rain _____, the convoy of motorcyclists _____ their journey. (stop, continue)
4. After graduating, Jessie _____ to do her Masters overseas. She _____ to get a scholarship. (intend, hope)
5. Johnny _____ gymnastics twice a week whereas Josiah _____ not. (practise, do)
6. Although Mark _____ great success, he _____ a very humble professor. (achieve, to be)
7. The exhibition _____ in half an hour's time, but there _____ already a large crowd. (open, to be)
8. The pupils _____ now for the contest. They _____ to be the champs again. (rehearse, hope)
9. I _____ someone _____ for help from the building. (think, call)
10. We _____ finally _____ the missing puppy. It _____ very untidy and skinny. (find, to be)
11. Neither Evelyn nor the boys _____ their entry forms. Perhaps they _____ it for granted. (submit, take)
12. I _____ always _____ of becoming a pilot. Now I _____ to fulfil my dream. (dream, intend)
13. Dora _____ her house a new facelift. It _____ much brighter now. (give, to be)
14. They _____ still _____ themselves at the party. They _____ to have forgotten the time. (enjoy, seem)
15. The street _____ deserted. Most of the people _____ the live telecast now. (become, enjoy)