

PRACTICE ON PERFECT TENSES
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE AND PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Matching Meanings. What do the sentences mean in each of the situations?

0 A I've been reading the book you lent me on genetics.

B I've read the book you lent me on genetics.

1 I've finished the book. B

2 I'm still reading the book. A

1 A The firm gives company cars to junior managers.

B The firm has been giving company cars to junior managers.

1 This is the company's usual policy. It's unlikely to change.

2 This isn't the company's usual policy. It may change.

2 A Something has been killing the rabbits in the woods.

B Something has killed the rabbits in the woods.

1 There are no rabbits left in the woods.

2 There are some rabbits left in the woods.

3 A Monsanto has placed some adverts in the national press.

B Monsanto has been placing adverts in the national press.

1 This was a one-off publicity move.

2 This is a continuing publicity campaign.

4 A 'Hi, Fiona. What a mess! Have you been decorating?'

B 'Hi, Fiona. This room looks great! Have you decorated it?'

1 Fiona is in the middle of decorating.

2 Fiona isn't decorating any more.

5 A A group of us have learnt how to play bridge.

B A group of us have been learning how to play bridge.

1 We're still learning.

2 We can play it now.

For each of the sentences below, write another sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence, using the word given. The word must not be altered in any way.

0 There's a cake in the oven.

BAKED

I've just baked a cake.

1 Most of the workers started here in 1996, when the factory opened.

SINCE

2 The guest performers are all here now.

ARRIVED

3 We visited the new theme park three times last summer and we intend to go this summer too.

HAVE

4 Everyone in my family knows the basics of First Aid.

LEARNT

Read this biography from a movie magazine. Complete the text with the verbs in brackets in the past simple or present perfect (simple or continuous).

MOVIE NEWS PROFILE

Mel Gibson (1) (be) a major film star now for more than twenty years. In this time he (2) (become) one of the most respected Hollywood actors and he (3) (now start) a successful career in film directing, as well.

Gibson (4) (be born) in the United States in 1956 but his family (5) (move) to Australia in 1968. He (6) (complete) his school education in Sydney and (7) (begin) his acting career there, in the National Institute of Dramatic Art. He (8) (appear) in several Australian TV series, but (9) (get) his big break in 1979, in a film called Mad Max. He (10) (since/make) two more 'Max' films.

He (11) (go on) to make several other successful films in Australia, for example, Gallipoli, before he (12) (move) to Hollywood.

Gibson (13) (make) more than thirty films, many of which (14) (be) great commercial successes. He (15) (never/be) afraid to take on challenging roles, such as Hamlet and The Man without a Face, which also (16) (mark) his directorial debut. He (17) (direct) films for the last few years. To date he (18) (direct) three successful films.

Unusually for the turbulent world of Hollywood romance, Gibson (19) (live) with the same woman for over twenty years – his wife Robyn, whom he (20) (marry) in 1980. Up to the present time, they have seven children.