

6A Present perfect vs. simple past

Use the present perfect to report a repeated past event that could continue into the present.

Thieves **have robbed** three banks this year.
The seal **has painted** four pictures so far.

Use the present perfect to report an event that has an effect on the present, or is still relevant.

She's **been** more careful since she lost her car keys.
The store **has had** a security camera for a month now.

- 1 Complete these sentences with the simple past or the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The police caught (catch) the robber when he _____ (sell) the stolen art.
2. Unbelievably, the same woman _____ (win) the lottery twice since May.
3. So far, the children _____ (raise) more than \$500 for charity.
4. Since the city _____ (pass) its new laws last year, crime _____ (fall).
5. The kidnappers _____ (not call) and _____ (not demand) any ransom yet.
6. No storms _____ (strike) since the summer _____ (begin).

6A Present perfect vs. present perfect continuous

Some verbs, such as *live, work, study, give/take (lessons), and teach*, express the idea of an ongoing action. They can usually be used in either the present perfect or the present perfect continuous.

He **has lived** in London for eight years.

He **has been living** in London for eight years.

I **have taken** violin lessons since I was three.

I **have been taking** violin lessons since I was three.

- 2 Review the rules for the present perfect and the present perfect continuous on page 45. Then choose the correct form of the verb to complete the article. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

It's a sad day for many who (1) have lived / have been living in this town since they were children. The town council (2) has decided / has been deciding to take down the old fishing pier.

Fisherman Bob Kates said, "I (3) have worked / have been working here since I was young. Generations of kids (4) have taken / have been taking swimming lessons here. I myself (5) have jumped / have been jumping off this pier many times, especially on hot summer days. However, today the temperature (6) has reached / has been reaching 36 degrees Celsius, but nobody can jump off the pier as the town (7) has already put up / has already been putting up barriers. It's true that the pier (8) has been / has been being in pretty bad condition for a while now, so I guess it's a safety issue."

It's not all bad news for Mr. Kates. The town (9) has studied / has been studying proposals for replacing the pier for a year now, and in fact, planning for a new and improved pier (10) has already begun / has already been beginning.