

## A. GRAMMAR

## I. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS



Form: **has / has been + verb -ing**

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I have been working You have been working He has been working She has been working It has been working We have been working You have been working They have been working	Have I been working? Have you been working? Has he been working? Has she been working? Has it been working? Have we been working? Have you been working? Have they been working?	I have not been working You have not been working He has not been working She has not been working It has not been working We have not been working You have not been working They have not been working
Short form	Negative-Interrogative	Short form
I've been working ...	Haven't you been working? ...	I haven't been working ...

1 Fill in the **present perfect continuous** of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 He has been playing. (play) football with his friends all afternoon.
- 2 They ..... (watch) a comedy for over an hour.
- 3 Annie ..... (do) her homework since 10 o'clock this morning.
- 4 How long ..... (he/work) as a doctor?
- 5 The children ..... (study) since breakfast.
- 6 We ..... (think) of buying a house since last year.
- 7 ..... (you/feel) ill for a long time?
- 8 Chris ..... (try) to fix the motorbike since Tuesday.

Present Perfect Continuous is used:

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present.

11:00



They have been making biscuits since 11 o'clock. (They're still making biscuits.)

- for past actions of certain duration which have visible results or effects, in the present.

Bob is very tired. He has been working all day long.

- to express irritation, anger, annoyance, explanation or criticism.

Who has been reading my business papers? (showing anger)

- to put emphasis on duration, usually with for, since or how long.

I've been typing letters since 9 o'clock.

Present Perfect is used:

- for actions recently completed.

12:00



They have made a lot of biscuits.

(The biscuits are on the plate, so the action has finished.)

- for actions which happened at an unstated time.

James has bought a new car.

- to express personal experiences or changes which have happened.

I've lost a lot of weight.

- to put emphasis on number.

I've only typed three letters since 9 o'clock.

Note

With the verbs **live**, **feel** and **work** we can use either Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous with no difference in meaning.

I've been living in London for a year.

or I've lived in London for a year.

Non-continuous verbs are not used in Present Perfect Continuous (**know**, **believe**, **see**, **like**, **love**, **taste**, **understand**, **want**, etc.)

I've known her since 2002.

(NOT: I've been knowing her since 2002.)

Time adverbs used with Present Perfect Continuous:

for, since, how long

Time adverbs and expressions used with Present Perfect:

just, ever, never, always, already, yet, for, since, so far, how long, recently, today, this week / month / year, once, etc.

**2** Identify the speech situations, then complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *present present continuous*.

recently completed action  
unstated time

anger or annoyance  
emphasis on duration

personal experience  
visible results

1 ... *visible results*...



He ... *has been painting* ...  
(paint) his room.

2 ...



She ...  
... (just/win) the race.

3 ...



(you/read) my  
emails again?

4 ...



They ...  
... (plant) trees  
since morning.

5 ...



He ...  
... (try) skiing.

6 ...



They ...  
... (buy) a pet dog.

**3** Put the verbs in brackets into the *present perfect* or the *present perfect continuous*.

• A: My back hurts.

B: That's because you 1) ... *have been working* ... (work) all day.

A: I know. But at least I 2) ...  
... (finish) with the gardening.

• A: You look tired. What 3) ...  
... (you/do)?

B: I 4) ...  
... (play) tennis with Evita.

A: Oh yes. I 5) ...  
... (see) her play before. She's good, isn't she?

B: Yes, she is. She 6) ...  
... (beat) me five times since the start of summer.

**4** Put the verbs in brackets into the **present perfect** or the **present perfect continuous**.



Pam: What are you doing, Ben?  
 Ben: I 1) *‘ve been looking through* (look through) my old toy box all morning. It brings back lots of memories.  
 Look, I 2) ..... (find) my old train set!  
 Pam: You 3) ..... (play) with those trains for over an hour. I 4) ..... (watch) you.  
 Ben: They’re great! I 5) ..... (not/have) so much fun for years. Look at this one!

Pam: Yes, Ben – it’s a very nice train. But 6) ..... (you/see) the time?  
 Ben: No... Why?  
 Pam: It’s 10:30 am. Your boss 7) ..... (just/phone) from the office.  
 Ben: What for?  
 Pam: He 8) ..... (wait) for you all morning. You have an important meeting.  
 Ben: Oh no! I lost track of time!

**5** Write one word for each space.

Dear Jessica,

How 1) ..... *are* ..... things? I’m sorry that I haven’t sent you an email but I’ve been really busy lately.

For the last two days, I have 2) ..... organising a surprise party for my best friend, Sally. I have 3) ..... decorated the house with balloons and coloured lights. I still have so many things to do but luckily, Sophie and Pat have been helping with the preparations.

So far, Sophie 4) ..... invited all our friends 5) ..... Pat has bought Sally’s present but we haven’t ordered a cake or bought any snacks and soft drinks 6) ..... Anyway, we’ve got plenty of time till Saturday. I’m sure everything 7) ..... be fine.

8) ..... have you been doing lately? Have you decided 9) ..... you’ll visit us? I hope you can come during the summer holidays. I do miss you.

Write soon. I can’t wait 10) ..... hear all your news.

Love,  
 Pamela

6

Write sentences about yourself. Use the *present perfect* or the *present perfect continuous*.

1 not play basketball for ...

I haven't played basketball for ...  
a week.

2 listen to music since ...

3 know my best friend for ...

4 live here for ...

5 not see my friends since ...



### Speaking Activity

(Talking about things you have already done or haven't done yet)

Work in pairs. Ask and answer questions as in the example:

**tired – clean / house**

- make / beds (✓)
- clean / windows (✓)
- mop / floors (✗)
- Hoover / carpets (✗)

**excited – plan / party**

- send / invitations (✓)
- put up / decorations (✓)
- order / cake (✗)
- sort out / music to play (✗)

**dirty – work / garden**

- plant / tomatoes (✓)
- cut / grass (✓)
- water / plants (✗)
- pick / flowers (✗)

A: You look tired. What have you been doing?

B: I've been cleaning the house.

A: What have you done so far?

B: Well, I've made the beds and cleaned the windows but I haven't mopped the floors or hoovered the carpets yet, etc.

### Writing Activity

Write a letter to your pen friend telling him/her about the party you are planning.

Dear ...

How are you? I am so excited. For the last week, I ..... a party for ..... It's going to be a big surprise!

Since yesterday, I ..... and .....

It is a lot of work but my ..... but we ..... me. So far, we ..... yet.

Well, that's all for now. Write back soon.

Love,