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WHAT'S THE REAL STORY?

LESSON A ▶ That's some story!

1 STARTING POINT Weird news

A Read the news articles. Match each headline with the correct article.

a

CELL PHONE OPENS CAR DOOR

b

SEA LION Paints for Her Supper

c

SURFING DOG Upstages Rivals

1

The police have been called to a surfing contest in Brazil because a dog has been stealing all the attention. The dog became the main attraction at Praia da Tiririca in Bahia during the Surf World Championship. The dog and his owner surfed together on the same surfboard between the competitions. Police said, "They've called us to remove the pair because they've been getting more attention than the actual contest." The dog's owner said, "I've always surfed with my dog. He's always loved it. Sometimes I think he's a better surfer than I am!"

2

Maggie, a California sea lion at the Pittsburgh Zoo, has been amazing visitors by painting for her supper. She has created dozens of paintings. Her trainer said, "I started teaching her to paint last year, and she caught on quickly." Maggie spent three months learning to hold the paintbrush in her mouth and to touch it to the canvas. Adding the paint was the next step. Maggie earned a fish for every successful brushstroke. The trainer has saved all the paintings. She'll probably sell them to raise money to help animals.

3



A shopper in Michigan saved time and money after her husband helped her unlock her car from 10 miles away. After a day at the mall, the woman went out to her car, but couldn't find her keys. When she saw them still in the ignition, she called home and said, "I've locked my keys in the car. I've never done that before. I don't know what to do." Following her husband's instructions, she held her cell phone about a foot from the car door, while her husband held the spare car remote near his phone and pressed the unlock button. The door unlocked. She said, "I've totally stopped worrying about my keys now."

B Pair work One of the news stories isn't true. Which one do you think it is? (For the answer, see page 142.)

"I think story number one has got to be false. I just don't believe that a dog could surf. Story number two is also pretty amazing, but I have a feeling it's true."

2 GRAMMAR

Present perfect vs. simple past

Use the present perfect to report a recent event without giving a specific time reference.

I've locked my keys in the car.

Use the simple past to report an event with a specific time reference.

After a day at the mall, the woman went out to her car.

I started teaching her to paint last year.

GRAMMAR PLUS see page 116

A Look at the first story on page 44 again. Can you find more examples of the present perfect and the simple past? Why is each tense used?

B Complete the news story with the present perfect or simple past form of the verbs in parentheses. Then compare answers with a partner.

A group of thieves (1) has stolen (steal) the Dragon's Eye ruby from the Grand Gallery. Last night at about 1:00 A.M., the alarm (2) _____ (go off). Police (3) _____ (rush) to the building immediately, but they (4) _____ (be) too late. Right after learning of the robbery, the mayor



(5) _____ (set up) a telephone hotline for information about the theft. Three people (6) _____ (call) so far, but the police are still looking for further information. They believe it is probable that the thieves (7) _____ (leave) the city. The curator of the Grand Gallery (8) _____ (offer) a \$50,000 reward for information leading to the capture of the thieves.

3 GRAMMAR

Present perfect vs. present perfect continuous

Use the present perfect continuous to describe temporary situations and actions that are not yet completed. The present perfect describes permanent situations and recently completed actions.

A dog **has been stealing** all the attention. (*temporary situation*)

I've always surfed with my dog. (*permanent situation*)

Maggie **has been amazing** visitors by painting for her supper. (*not yet completed action*)

I've locked my keys in the car. (*recently completed action*)

Use the present perfect with the passive or with stative verbs such as *be*, *love*, and *have*.

He's always loved it.

GRAMMAR PLUS see page 116

A Look at the first story on page 44 again. Can you find another example of the present perfect continuous? Why is this form used?

B Complete the sentences with the present perfect or present perfect continuous form of the verbs in parentheses. Then compare answers with a partner.

- Many residents have been (be) homeless ever since last month's storm and _____ (stay) with relatives while their homes are being repaired.
- Although crews _____ (repair) the subway signals all week, they still _____ (not solve) the problem of long delays.
- Police _____ (guard) the stores that the thieves _____ (not rob) yet.
- Some organizations _____ (provide) free meals to residents, and will continue to do so all week.