

# The Present Perfect Continuous

## GRAMMAR

### 1. FORM:

a I, YOU, WE, THEY HAVE BEEN + V-ING  
as in *We have been talking...*

b HE, SHE, IT HAS BEEN V-ING  
as in *It has been snowing ...*

### AFFIRMATIVE, NEGATIVE, INTERROGATIVE:

*We have been waiting for her for two hours.*  
*You haven't been doing anything lately!*  
*Have you been working out? You're so fit!*  
*How long have we been waiting for her?*  
*What has she been doing?*

### 2. USAGE:

a This verb tense stresses the duration of the action. Prepositions since and for can be used.

*She has been playing in the garden for hours.*  
*(she's still there)*

b It's also used to describe a long action that began in the past and has just stopped. The result of the action is clear or implied.  
*It has been raining. The ground is still wet.*

c. We can also use it to talk about something that has been in progress recently or lately.

*You look wonderful! Have you been working out lately?*

*Have you been smoking recently? I can smell cigarette smoke here!*

*You haven't been taking things seriously lately.*

## PRACTICE

Complete the dialogues between a writer and a reporter using the *Present Perfect Continuous* and the necessary prepositions:



R: How long \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (you- write) books?<sup>1</sup>  
W: \_\_\_\_\_<sup>2</sup>  
them \_\_\_\_\_<sup>3</sup> five years."



R: How long \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in Africa?<sup>4</sup>  
W: I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>5</sup> (live) in Africa  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>6</sup>1998.  
R: How long \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>7</sup> (your guide -work) with you?  
W: He \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup> (work) with me \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup>two years.



R: What else \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (you-do) in Africa?<sup>10</sup>  
W: I \_\_\_\_\_  
(take)<sup>11</sup> photos for my guidebook.  
R: How long \_\_\_\_\_  
(travel)<sup>12</sup> around Kenya?



W: \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>13</sup> (I - travel) \_\_\_\_\_<sup>14</sup> 6 a.m.  
R: \_\_\_\_\_  
<sup>15</sup> (you-walk) around Kenya?  
W: I \_\_\_\_\_  
(drive)<sup>16</sup> and \_\_\_\_\_ (walk)<sup>17</sup>



R: \_\_\_\_\_  
(you - ride)<sup>18</sup> elephants too?  
W: No, I \_\_\_\_\_<sup>19</sup>. But I \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (send)<sup>20</sup> photos of  
elephants and many other animals to  
some magazines. I've sold most of my  
photos. I \_\_\_\_\_  
(think)<sup>21</sup> of becoming a full time  
photographer.



R: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_<sup>22</sup> (I-consider) changing my  
job \_\_\_\_\_<sup>23</sup> two years!

