

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?¹
W: _____ them _____³ five years...



R: How long _____ in Africa?⁴
W: I _____⁵ (live) in Africa
_____⁶ 1998.
R: How long _____⁷ (your guide -work) with you?
W: He _____⁸ (work) with me _____⁹ two years.



R: What else _____ (you-do) in Africa?¹⁰
W: I _____¹¹ photos for my guidebook.
R: How long _____¹² around Kenya?



W: _____¹³ (I - travel) _____¹⁴ 6 a.m.
R: _____¹⁵ (you-walk) around Kenya?
W: I _____¹⁶ and _____¹⁷ (walk)



R: _____¹⁸ (you - ride)¹⁸ elephants too?
W: No, I _____¹⁹. But I _____²⁰ photos of elephants and many other animals to some magazines. I've sold most of my photos. I _____²¹ of becoming a full time photographer.



R: _____²² (I-consider) changing my job _____²³ two years!

