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I've been studying English for three years. I've passed two exams and recently I've been preparing for a third. I think it's going to be really difficult so I've been taking extra classes at the weekend. In fact, I've just been looking at my homework for tomorrow's class. I need to go back now and finish it!

Presentation

To form the present perfect continuous, use
have / has + been + verb + -ing

Affirmative and negative

I / You / We / They	've (have) haven't (have not)	been	preparing	for an exam.
He / She / It	's (has) hasn't (has not)			

Questions

How long	have	I / you / we / they	been	studying English?
	has	he / she / it		
	Have	I / you / we / they	been	studying English?
	Has	he / she / it		

Short answers

Yes, I / you / we / they	have.	No, I / you / we / they	haven't.
Yes, he / she / it	has.	No, he / she / it	hasn't.

Use the present perfect continuous to talk about a long action or repeated action that started in the past and continues to the present:

I've just been looking at my homework. (continuous)

I've been going to extra classes at the weekend. (repeated)

We also use the present perfect continuous to talk about long actions in the past that have an effect on the present:

I've just been looking at my homework for tomorrow's class. (and now I need to finish it!)

Exercises

- 1 Look at the pictures. Complete the sentences with the present perfect continuous form of the verbs in the box.

build dance eat paint run swim



- 1 They _____ a marathon.
 2 She _____ all day.
 3 He _____ the living room.
 4 They _____ in the pool.
 5 They _____ ice cream.
 6 He _____ a wall all morning.

- 2 Answer these questions about the pictures in Exercise 1 with short answers.

- 1 Have they been running a marathon? Yes, they have
 2 Has she been playing tennis all day? No, she hasn't. (She's been dancing.)
 3 Has he been painting the bedroom? _____
 4 Have they been cycling? _____
 5 Have they been eating ice cream? _____
 6 Has he been painting a wall? _____

- 3 Complete this conversation using the present perfect continuous. Use the verb in brackets or write in the missing auxiliary verb.

- A: You look tired.
 B: Yes, I am! I ¹ _____ (prepare) for my final English exams.
 A: Really? How long ² _____ you _____ (study) English?
 B: For six years. And I have the exams in two weeks.
 A: So ³ _____ you _____ (revise) all day?
 B: No, I ⁴ _____, but I will do some revision later.
 A: What are your plans for after your exams?
 B: Well, recently I ⁵ _____ (think) about spending a year in Australia. It'd be a lot of fun and I'd practise my English, of course.
 A: What a coincidence! My brother ⁶ _____ (look) at holidays in Australia. But he only wants to go for two weeks, not a whole year.

- 4 Answer these questions for you.

- 1 What have you been doing today? _____
 2 Have you been studying English? _____
 3 Have you been sunbathing and eating ice cream? _____