Present perfect simple and continuous

Present perfect continuous	
Affirmative	**Negative**
I / You / We / They've been playing.	I / You / We / They haven't been playing.
He / She / It's been playing.	He / She / It hasn't been playing.

The present perfect continuous is made with *have* or *has* + *been* followed by the *-ing* form of the main verb.

Questions	Short answers	
	Affirmative	**Negative**
Have I / you / we / they been waiting?	Yes, I / you / we / they have.	No, I / you / we / they haven't.
Has he / she / it been waiting?	Yes, he / she / it has.	No, he / she / it hasn't.

Use

The present perfect simple implies that an action is complete.

I've read this hilarious book. (= I've finished it)

The present perfect continuous implies that an action is not complete and might continue.

I've been reading this hilarious book. (= I haven't finished it and I'll continue reading it)

Verbs that have the idea of a very long time or repeated action are often used in the present perfect continuous: *wait, learn, try, rain, play, work.*

I've been waiting for ages!

Verbs that have the idea of a short time or single action are often used in the present perfect simple: *cut, stop, finish, start, break, die, lose, buy.*

She's cut her finger.

Remember that stative verbs are only used with the simple form. These include: *believe, belong, own, have* (=possess), *hate, imagine, know, like, love, prefer, remember, think, understand, want.*

I've known Helena for three years.

a Write the words and phrases in the correct column.

six years 1992 Friday the last three days
ages a long time Christmas I last saw you
months and months he was a child

for	since
six years	

b Complete the dialogues with the correct form of the verbs in brackets.

1 A Haven't you finished yet?

B No. I'm exhausted! I _____ (clean) the house for hours!

2 A Have you finished that report?

B Not yet. I _____ (work) on it for three days.

3 A Dinner isn't ready yet.

B What _____ (you / do) for the last two hours?

A I _____ (prepare) the vegetables!

4 A He doesn't look very happy.

B No, he _____ (try) to repair his computer all morning.

5 A Why are you moving?

B We _____ (think) of moving for a long time. This house is too small.

LIVEWORKSHEETS