

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

Have / has been (v)+ing is the present perfect continuous

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------|---------------|------|--------------------|
| I / we / they / you | have | (= I've etc.) | | doing |
| she / he / it | has | (= he's etc.) | been | working playing |

- We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with now.
(study this example situation):
It has been raining
Is it raining?
No, but the ground is wet.
It has been raining.
 - ✚ Paul is very tired. He's **been working** very hard. (=he's tired now)
 - ✚ Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have** you **been doing**?
 - ✚ **I have been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
 - ✚ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you everywhere.
- Study this example situation (It has been raining for two hours)
(this mean, it began raining two hours ago and it is still raining).
How long **has** it **been raining**?
It **has been raining** for two hours.
- We use the present perfect continuous in this way with *how long, for.... And since.....* The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.
 - ✚ **How long have** you **been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
 - ✚ Tim is still watching television. He's **been watching** television **all day**.
 - ✚ Where have you been ? **I've been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
 - ✚ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well recently.
- You can use the present perfect continuous for action repeated over a period of time.
 - ✚ Debbie is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing** since she was eight.
 - ✚ Every morning they meet in the same café. They've **been going** there for years.

EXERCISES:

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Q1/ Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It '**s been raining** for two hours.
- 2- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We _____ for 20 minutes.
- 3- I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I _____ since December.
- 4- Mary is working in London. She started working there on 18 January.
_____ since 18 January.
- 5- Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago. _____ for years.

Q2/ Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- 1- **Maria has been learning** (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- 2- Hello, Tom. _____ (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
- 3- Why _____ (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- 4- Linda is a teacher. _____ (she / teach) for ten years.
- 5- _____ (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 6- 'Is Paul on holiday this week? 'No, _____ (he / work)
- 7- Sarah is very tired. _____ (she / work) very hard recently.

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Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

➤ Study this example situation:

(Kate's clothes are covered in paint)

She **has been painting** the ceiling.

Has been painting is the present perfect continuous.

(The ceiling was white. Now it is red.)

She **has painting** the ceiling.

Has painting is the present perfect continuous.

Compare these example:

1- My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** the car.

2- Joe **has been eating** too much recently.
He should eat less.

3- Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

1- The car is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.

2- Somebody **has eaten** all my chocolates. The box is empty.

3- **Have you ever played** tennis?

➤ We use the perfect continuous to say **how long** (*for an activity that is still happening*):

We use the present simple to say **how much, how many or many times** (*for completed*).

Exg:

✚ How long **have you been reading** that book? / How much of that book **have you read**?

✚ They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock. / They've **played** tennis three times this week.

➤ Some verbs (for example, **know / like / believe**) are not normally used in the continuous: **see past continuous for explain many these verbs.**

✚ I've **known** about it for a long time. (not I've been knowing)

➤ For the list verbs in past continuous (you can use **want , mean** in th present perfect continuous.

✚ I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, I keep forgetting.

➤ For and since:

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

✚ We use **for** + a period of time (**two hours, six weeks etc.**):

I've been waiting **for two hours**

Two hours ago —————>now

(For)

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------|
| Two hours | a long time | a week |
| 20 minutes | six months | ages |
| Five days | 50 years | years |

➤ Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not since six months*)

➤ I haven't seen Tom **for three days**. (*not since three days*)

✚ We use **since** + the start of a period (**8 o'clock, Monday, 1999 etc.**).

I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.

8 o'clock —————>now

(Since)

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 8 o'clock | April | lunchtime |
| Monday | 1985 | we arrived |
| 12 May | Christmas | I got up |

➤ Sally has been working here **since April**. (=from April until now)

➤ I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**. (=from Monday until now)

EXERCISES:

Q1/ Write **for** or **since** in the following sentences.

- 1- It's been raining **since** lunchtime.
- 2- Sarah has lived in paris _____ 1995.
- 3- Paul has lived in London _____ ten years.
- 4- I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here _____ an hour.
- 5- Kevin has been looking for a job _____ he left school.
- 6- I haven't been to a party _____ ages.
- 7- I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him _____ last weeks.
- 8- Jane is away. She's been away _____ Friday.
- 9- The weather is dry. It hasn't rained _____ a few weeks.

➤ Present perfect and past simple (I have done and I did)

(We don't use the present perfect (**I have done**) when you talk about a finished time (for example, **yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1999 / when I was a child**).
(in the situation we use a past tense:

- + It **was** very cold **yesterday**. (not has been)
- + Paul and Lucy **arrived** **ten minutes ago**. (not have arrived)
- + **Did** you **eat** a lot of sweet **when you were a child**? (not have you eaten)
- + I got home late **last night**. I **was** very tired and **went** straight to bed.

(We use the past to ask **When.....?** Or **What time.....?**:

- + **When** did your friends **arrive**? (not have.....arrived)
- + **What time** did you **finish** work?

➤ Present perfect (have done)

+ **I've done** a lot of work **today**.
(We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues until now.
For example (**today, this week, since 1985**)

Past simple (did)

I did a lot of work **yesterday**.
(We use the past simple for a finished time in the past. For example:
(**yesterday, last week, from 1985 to 2000.**)

Unfinished

Today

Past

now

Finished

Yesterday

Past

now

Exg.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| + It hasn't rained this week . | / | It didn't rain last week . |
| + Have you seen Anna this morning . (it is still morning) | / | Did you see Anna this morning . (it is now afternoon or evening) |
| + We've been waiting for an hour. (we are still waiting now) | / | We waited (or were waiting) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting) |
| + Ian lives in London. He has lived there for seven years. | / | Ian lived in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London. |