

LESSON 135

747 Present perfect continuous: evidence of recent activity

As we already know, we can use the perfect continuous tenses to communicate the duration of an action up to a particular point. For example, "I have been working for one hour so far".

In addition, we can use the present perfect continuous when there is evidence now of a recent activity. For example, "Look at Lucy's eyes; I think she's been crying" or "The road's wet. It's been raining".

Give me an example of the present perfect continuous used when there's evidence now of a recent activity.

Look at David; he's covered in mud.
I think he's been working in his garden.

How can we tell when somebody's been running a lot? We can tell ..
because they're breathing heavily

When we arrive at someone's house, how can we tell if they've recently been cooking?
When we ..., we can tell ..
because we can smell the food

We can use the past perfect continuous in the same way. For example, "When I arrived at David's house last night, I could tell he had been cooking".

Give me an example of the past perfect continuous used in the same way, please.

When I walked into the living room,
both the children looked really angry.
It was clear they had been arguing.

748 to take into account

tip

When considering the price of a meal in a restaurant, do you take into account such things as the service charge and the waiter's tip?

Yes, when considering ...
~ No, when considering ...

What part of my finger is this?

That's the tip of your finger

When we are trying to think of a word or a name that we know well but we cannot remember it immediately, we say it's on the tip of our tongue.

What do we say when we are trying to think of a word or a name that we know well, but we cannot remember it immediately? When we are trying ... we say it's on the tip of our tongue

make up your mind

When you're buying something like a new phone or watch, do you have trouble making up your mind which one to buy? Yes, when I'm buying ..., I have ... ~ No, when I'm buying ..., I don't have ...

delicate

What would happen if you washed some delicate clothes in a washing machine at a high temperature? If I ..., they would get damaged or become smaller

observe

observation

Do people behave differently from how they normally do when they think they're not being observed by others? Yes, people behave ... ~ No, people don't behave ...

749 Why do you think this is? I think this is because ...

Does a detective need to have good powers of observation? Yes, a detective needs ...

historic

Do you think it's right for governments to spend public money on preserving historic buildings, or do you think public money should be spent in other ways? I think ...

paw

claw

What's a paw? A paw is the foot of an animal which has claws, like that of a cat, a dog, a lion etc ...

wooden

hut

woollen

silken

golden

A wooden hut is a hut made of wood; a woollen hat is a hat made of wool; a silk dress is a dress made of silk, whereas silken hair is hair which is soft and smooth like silk; a gold watch is a watch made of gold, whereas golden is hair that looks like gold in colour.

What's a wooden hut?

A wooden ... made of wood

What's a woollen hat?

A woollen ... made of wool

What's a silk dress?

A silk ... made of silk

What's silken hair?

Silken ... like silk

What's a gold watch?

A gold ... made of gold

What's golden skin?

Golden ... looks like gold in colour

750 **every other day**

Do you have English lessons every day or every other day?

I have
English ...

assist

assistant

pushchair

If you noticed somebody struggling to get a pushchair onto a bus, would you assist them?

Yes, if I noticed ...,
I'd ... ~ No, if I noticed ..., I wouldn't ...

Would you say the shop assistants in this country were reasonably polite and helpful?

Yes, I'd say ...
~ No, I wouldn't say ...

otherwise

engaged

If someone called you on your mobile and you were otherwise engaged with something important, would you take the call?

Yes, if someone ..., I'd ...
~ No, if someone ..., I wouldn't ...

If a car had one broken window but otherwise was in good condition, would you buy it?

Yes, if a car ...,
I'd ... ~ No, if a car ..., I wouldn't ...

perform

performance

trick

magic

If you had to perform in a play, what kind of part would you like to perform?

If I had to perform ..., I'd like to ...

Can you perform any magic tricks?

Yes, I can ... ~ No, I can't ...

751 Name an actor who you think always gives good performances in films.

An actor who I think ... is ...

envy

envious

celebrity

fame

What kind of people do you envy?

I envy ...

Are you envious of the fame that celebrities have?

Yes, I'm envious of ...

~ No, I'm not envious of ...

advice (n)

advise (v)

practice (n)

practise (v)

licence (n)

license (v)

What's the difference between "advice" and "advise"?

The difference ... "advice" is a noun, whereas "advise" is a verb

What's the difference in spelling between the noun "practice" and the verb "practise"?

The difference ... the noun is spelt "-ce", whereas the verb is spelt "se"

And what's the difference between the noun "licence" and the verb "license"?

The difference ... the same; the noun is spelt "-ce", whereas the verb is spelt "se"

record (n) /'rekɔ:d/

record (v) /rɪ'kɔ:d/

What's the difference between the words "record" (n) and "record" (v)?

The difference ... is that "record" is a noun, whereas "record" is a verb

752 Can you think of any sporting record that has been broken recently?

Yes, I can think ... ~ No, I can't think ...

Which?

Have you ever recorded your own voice?

Yes, I've recorded ... ~
No, I've never recorded ...

What did it sound like?

It sounded ...

scatter

plant

row

disorderly

Why do farmers sometimes plant seeds carefully in the ground in rows rather than just scatter them on the land?

Farmers sometimes ...
to prevent birds from eating them,
or the wind from blowing them away

Why does a disorderly crowd of people scatter when the police arrive?

A disorderly crowd of people scatters
when the police arrive because the people are
afraid of being arrested or hit by the police etc.

tap

turn on

What am I doing?

You're tapping your fingers on the table

In which direction does one normally turn a watertap on?

One normally turns a water tap
on in an anticlockwise direction

pollution

polluted

Is pollution a more serious problem now than it was a hundred years ago?

Yes, pollution is...

753 Are most of the rivers in this country heavily polluted?

Yes, most of
the rivers ... ~ No, most of the rivers ...

Idiom 36

get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick = understand something wrongly

e.g. No, you've got (hold of) the wrong end of the stick. I meant next Wednesday, not this Wednesday!

What does the idiom "get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick" mean?

The idiom ... "understand something wrongly"

Give me an example, please.

Every time you explain anything to him, he always seems to get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick.



Dictation 91

It doesn't matter/ if we occasionally make a mistake./ We were suddenly forced to stop/ by the appearance of men/ standing in front of us/ with bows and arrows./ Some of them/ had drawn back their bows/ ready to shoot at us./ The youth claimed/ that he had not stolen the goods/ but the shopkeeper would not believe him./ Last year, I paid a visit/ to the Holy Land,/ an important region/ for millions of religious believers/ around the world./ We stood on the shore/ and watched the sun go down over the lake.