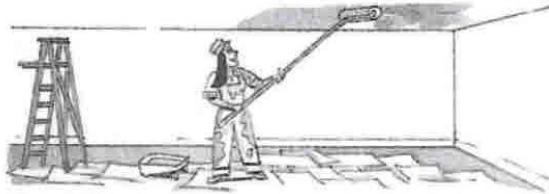


Present Perfect Continuous and Present Perfect Simple (*I have been doing* and *I have done*)

A

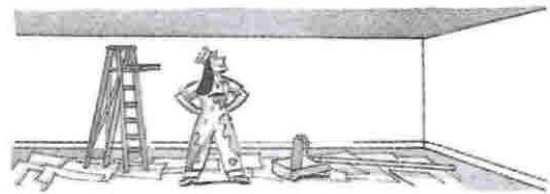
Study these example situations:



Ling's clothes are covered with paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the ceiling) has not been finished.



The ceiling was white. Now it is blue. She **has painted** the ceiling.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted ceiling), not in the activity itself.

Compare these examples:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ My hands are very dirty. I've been fixing the car. ■ She's been eating too much recently. She should eat less. ■ It's nice to see you again. What have you been doing since the last time we saw you? ■ Where have you been? Have you been playing tennis? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The car is OK again now. I've fixed it. ■ Somebody has eaten all my candy! The box is empty. ■ Where's the book I gave you? What have you done with it? ■ Have you ever played tennis? |
|---|---|

B

Use the continuous to say how long (for an activity that is still happening):

- How long **have you been reading** that book?
- Lisa is still writing letters. She's **been writing** letters all day.
- They've **been playing** tennis since 2:00.

Use the simple to say how much, how many, or how many times (for completed actions):

- How many pages of that book **have you read**?
- Lisa **has written** ten letters today.
- They've **played** tennis three times this week.

C

Some verbs (for example, know/like/believe) are not normally used in the continuous:

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

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A.

Present Perfect (Simple) Units 7-8 **Present Perfect Continuous** Unit 9

Present Perfect with for/since Units 11-12

Exercises

10.1 Read the situations and write two sentences using the words in parentheses.

- Luis started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it, and now he is on page 53.
(read / for two hours) He has been reading for two hours.
(read / 53 pages so far) He has read 53 pages so far.
- Rachel is from Australia. She is traveling around South America at the moment.
She began her trip three months ago.
(travel / for three months) She _____
(visit / six countries so far) _____
- Jimmy is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he is national champion again – for the fourth time.
(win / the national championship four times) _____
(play / tennis since he was ten) _____
- When they graduated from college, Lisa and Amy started making movies together. They still make movies.
(make / ten movies since they graduated from college) They _____
(make / movies since they left college) _____

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in parentheses.

- You have a friend who is studying Arabic. You ask:
(how long / study / Arabic?) How long have you been studying Arabic?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(how long / wait?) _____
- You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(how many fish / catch?) _____
- Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?) _____
- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?) _____
- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?) _____
(how long / write / books?) _____
- A friend of yours is saving money to take a trip. You ask:
(how long / save?) _____
(how much money / save?) _____

10.3 Put the verb into the more appropriate form, present perfect simple or continuous.

- Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?
- Look! Somebody _____ (break) that window.
- You look tired. _____ (you / work) hard?
- “ _____ (you / ever / work) in a factory?” “No, never.”
- My brother is an actor. He _____ (appear) in several movies.
- “Sorry I’m late.” “That’s all right. I _____ (not / wait) long.”
- “Is it still raining?” “No, it _____ (stop).”
- I _____ (lose) my address book. _____
(you / see) it anywhere?
- I _____ (read) the book you lent me, but I _____
(not / finish) it yet.
- I _____ (read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.