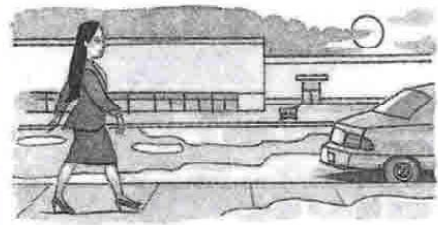


Present Perfect Continuous (*I have been doing*)

A

It has been raining. Study this example situation:



Is it raining?
No, but the ground is wet.
It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

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

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with now:

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (You're out of breath now.)
- Jason 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've **been talking** to Amanda about the problem, and she agrees with me.

B

It has been raining for two hours. Study this example situation:



It is raining now. It began raining two hours ago.
How long has it **been raining**?
It **has been raining** for two hours.

We often use the present perfect continuous in this way, especially with **how long**, **for**, and **since**. The activity is still happening or has just stopped.

- **How long have you been studying** English? (You're still studying English.)
- Tim is still watching TV. **He's been watching** TV all day.
- Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you for the last half hour.
- Christopher **hasn't been feeling** well recently.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions that are 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 cafe. **They've been going** there for years.

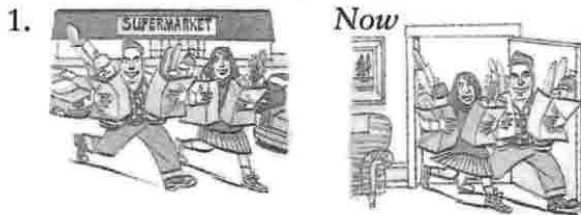
C

Compare I am doing (see Unit 1) and I have been doing:

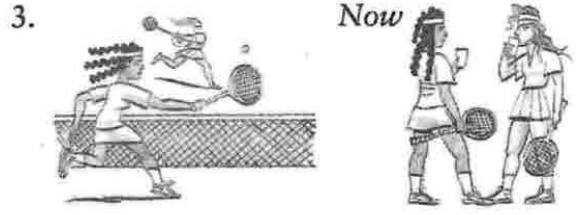
<p>I am doing <i>present continuous</i> now</p>	<p>I have been doing <i>present perfect continuous</i> → now</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Don't bother me now. I'm working. ■ We need an umbrella. It's raining. ■ Hurry up! We're waiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I've been working hard, so now I'm going to take a break. ■ The ground is wet. It's been raining. ■ We've been waiting for an hour.

Exercises

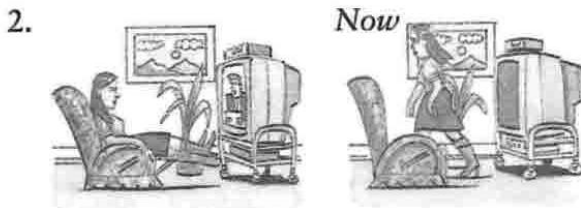
9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?



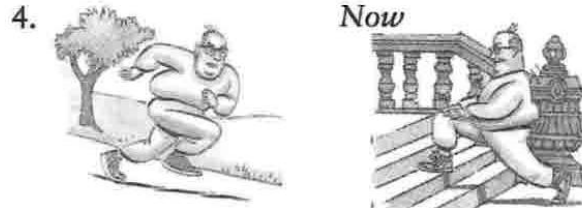
They have been shopping.



They _____.



She _____.



He _____.

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- John looks sunburned. You ask: (you / sit in the sun?) Have you been sitting in the sun?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you. You ask: (you / wait / long?) _____
- You meet a friend on the street. His face and hands are very dirty. You ask: (what / you / do?) _____
- A friend of yours is now living on Main Street. You want to know "How long . . . ?" You ask: (how long / you / live / on Main Street?) _____
- A friend tells you about her job – she sells computers. You want to know "How long . . . ?" You ask: (how long / you / sell / computers?) _____

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- The rain started two hours ago. It's still raining now.
It has been raining for two hours.
- We started waiting for the bus 20 minutes ago. We're still waiting now.
We _____ for 20 minutes.
- I started Spanish classes in December. I'm still studying Spanish now.
I _____ since December.
- Jessica started working in Tokyo on January 18th. She's still working there now.
_____ since January 18th.
- Years ago you started writing to a pen pal. You still write to each other regularly.
We _____ for years.

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

- Maria has been studying (study) English for two years.
- Hello, Tom. I _____ (look) for you all morning. Where have you been?
- Why _____ (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- We always go to Florida in the winter. We _____ (go) there for years.
- I _____ (think) about what you said, and I've decided to take your advice.
- "Is Kim on vacation this week?" "No, she _____ (work)."
- Sarah is very tired. She _____ (work) very hard recently.