# UNIT 7 Present Perfect Continuous



How long has Karen been reading the book? She has been reading the book for three hours.



She is tired. Has she been playing?
No, she hasn't.
She has been studying for two hours.

We form the present perfect continuous with the auxiliary verb have/has, the past participle of the verb to be (been) and the main verb with the -ing suffix.

e.g. He has been reading his newspaper for an hour.

We form questions by putting have/has before the subject.

e.g. Have you been living here long?

We form negations by putting not between have/ has and been.

e.g. They have not/haven't been waiting for a long time.
She has not/hasn't been working here long.

	Aiiim	ative	
	Long form	Short form	
l He/She/It You/We/They	have has have	've 's 've	been studying
	Interrog	ative	
Have Has Have	I he/she/it you/we/th	ey } been studyi	ng?
	Nega	tive	
	Long form	Short form	
I He/She/It You/We/They	have not has not have not	haven't hasn't haven't	} been studying



In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts given, as in the example.

SA: How long has Sam been working for this company? SB: He has been working for this company for two

years.

- 1 Sam / work / for this company / two years
- 2 Mary / teach / French / 1990
- 3 the robbers / hide / in a farmhouse / a week
- 4 Peter / make / model planes / 1992
- 5 Julie / play / the guitar / four years
- 6 the children / watch / TV / two hours



#### Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present perfect continuous.

1	what nave you been doing all week? (you/ do)
2	(Jim/repair) his car all day?
3	I this book for weeks. (read)
4	a lot this year? (Ben/swim)
5	Mr Bell is busy. He
	on the phone for an hour. (talk)
6	I've got a penfriend. I
	to her for five years. (write)
7	John won't pass his exams. He
	any homework lately. (not/do)
8	Molly with me
	since last month. (stay)
9	We
	on this project since December. (work)
10	Samhow
IU	
	to ride a horse for three months. (learn)

## Present Perfect Continuous

### Use

We use the present perfect continuous for:

an action which started in the past and continues up to the present.



He has been painting the house for
three days. (He
began painting the
house three days
ago and he is still
painting it.)

an action which has recently finished and its result is evident now.



They're tired. They have been painting the garage door all morning.

(They have just finished painting and the result is evident now. The paint on the door is still wet and the two people look tired.)

Note: 1) We use the present perfect simple instead of the present perfect continuous with non-continuous verbs (know, believe, like, etc.).

e.g. I've known Sharon since we were at school together. (NOT: I've been knowing Sharon since we were at school together.)

2) With the verbs live, feel and work we can use the present perfect continuous or the present perfect simple with no difference in meaning. e.g. He has been living/has lived here since 1994.

## Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present perfect continuous include:

for, since, all morning/afternoon/week/day, etc., how long (in questions)



Match Column A with Column B to make correct sentences.

#### A

- 1 How long have you been waiting?
- 2 Bill is in the garden.
- 3 You've been studying all morning.
- 4 Anne's been exercising a lot recently.
- 5 It's cold outside.
- 6 Jenny's tired.
- 7 We've been practising all afternoon.
- 8 What have you been doing since I last saw you?

#### В

- a He's been planting trees all day.
- b That's why she's lost weight.
- c It's been snowing all day.
- d She's been working hard all week.
- I think it's time to stop now.
- ★ For ten minutes.
  - g Lots of things. I've been busy.
  - h Why don't you take a break?



What have these people been doing? Make sentences using an appropriate verb in the present perfect continuous.

- 1 Catherine went to the supermarket an hour ago. She's still there.
  - Catherine has been shopping for an hour.
- 2 My mum began cooking three hours ago. She hasn't finished yet.
- 3 The teams started playing football twenty minutes ago. They haven't finished yet.
- 4 The headmaster started speaking two hours ago. He hasn't stopped yet.
- 5 Bill began building his house six months ago. He hasn't finished it yet.
- 6 I started doing my homework three hours ago. I haven't finished it yet.



In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts given, as in the example.

SA: What's your favourite hobby?

SB: Painting.

SA: How long have you been painting?

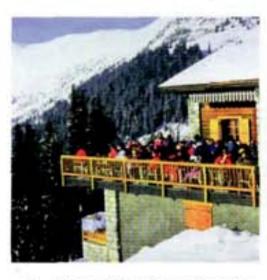
SB: I've been painting since I was fourteen years old.

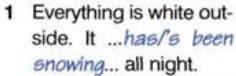
- 1 favourite hobby
- 2 best friend / know
- 3 favourite TV programme / watch
- 4 your address / live
- 5 favourite magazine / read

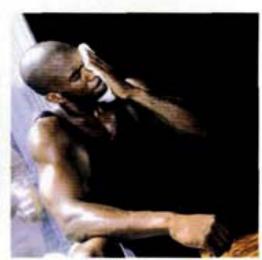


Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the list in the present perfect continuous.

work, snow, exercise, play







2 He is hot. He ...... for two hours.



3 They are tired. They volleyball all afternoon.



4 He has got a headache. He ......hard all morning.



#### Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous.

A:	Hi Liz. You look exhausted. 1) Have you been working (you/work) overtime again?
B:	Yes, I have. I 2)(help) my boss to update the files in the office all week. He
	3) (read) the files and I 4) (write) down names,
	addresses, phone numbers and so on. What about you?
A:	Well, I 5) (train) hard for the championship next week.
B:	I see! 6) (you/lift) weights all day long?
A:	Yes, for two weeks. How's Sue? 7) (she/study) for her exams?
B:	No, she hasn't. She 8)

## Short Answers

e.g. Have you been working hard? Yes, I have.

Have you?	Yes, I/we have.	No, I/we haven't.
Has he/she/it?	Yes, he/she/it has.	No, he/she/it hasn't.
Have they?	Yes, they have.	No, they haven't.



Look at the pictures. In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below, as in the example.

SA: Have people been taking photos since 1751? SB: No, they haven't. They've been taking photos since 1851.



## Present Perfect Continuous versus Present Perfect Simple

#### Present Perfect Continuous

We use the present perfect continuous:

 for an action which started in the past and continues up to the present.



Mr Davis has been teaching for six years. (He began working as a teacher six years ago and he still is.)

to put emphasis on the duration of an action.



She has been painting this picture for two hours.
(She started two hours ago and she is still painting it.)

#### Present Perfect Simple

We use the present perfect simple:

for an action which has just finished.



They have just made a deal.

· to put emphasis on number.



He has painted twenty pictures.



Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous or the present perfect simple.

- A: Amanda ...has opened... (open) a shop which sells newspapers and magazines.
  - B: Really? Where is it?
- 2 A: Where's Dan?
  - B: He ...... (just/go) to the post office. He'll be back soon.
- 3 A: Dave ..... (learn) to drive for six months.
  - B: I know. He hasn't passed his test yet, though.
- 4 A: I ...... (know) Alison for ten years.
  - B: Well, I only met her last week.
- 5 A: My uncle is painting his house again.
  - B: Again? He ...... (paint) it three times this year already.
- 6 A: Is Paul sleeping?
  - B: Yes, he ...... (sleep) since 10 o'clock last night.



Mary is reading some letters. Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous or the present perfect simple.

A	I'm planning to buy a new house. I 1)'ve
	been looking (look) for one for two months now.
	So far I 2) (look) at ten
	houses, but I 3) (not/find) one I like.

В	My Spanish lessons are going very well. I 1	
	and I love it. I 2) (already/learn) a	

C	John 1) (be) very busy recent-
	ly. He 2) (paint) the living-room
	and the bedrooms, but he 3)
	(not/ start) painting the kitchen yet.

### Present Perfect Continuous

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Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous or the present perfect simple.



- A: Good evening and welcome to our show. Tonight we have Steve Connolly, the well-known director. We're glad to have you here Steve. What 1) ...have you been doing... (do) lately?
- B: Well, I 2) ...... (finish) my latest film, "Double Crossing".
- A: That 3) ...... (just/come out) at the cinemas, hasn't it?
- A: 5) ..... (you/decide) what it'll be about?
- A: Aha! Is it true that you 8) ......(recently/start) learning Russian?
- B: Yes, I 9) ...... (study) it for three years now and I 10) ...... (visit) the country twice.
- A: Steve, thank you very much for being with us, and good luck with your new film.



## Fill in the blanks with time expressions from the list below.

since, all morning, already, how long, for, ever, yet, so far, just, always

- 1 The baby has been crying ... all morning...
- 2 Simon hasn't started school ......
- 3 She has ...... washed the clothes, so they are still wet.
- 4 Martha has ...... wanted to go to Mexico.

5	She has been ill a week.
6	has he been at home?
7	It's very early, but Richard has gone
	to work.
8	I've sent ten party invitations
9	I haven't spoken French 1990.
10	Have you appeared on television?

#### IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- Helen started learning French four months ago.
   has Helen has been learning French for four months.
- 2 They haven't paid the bills yet.
  still They still haven't paid the bills.
- 3 When did you buy your car?
  since How long is it since you bought your car?



#### Complete each sentence with two to five words including the word in bold.

- the guitar for three years.

  The children haven't finished their homework yet.
- still The children ...... their homework.
- 5 We haven't called the plumber yet.

  still We ...... the plumber.



#### Correct the mistakes.

- 1 I have looked for him all day. I can't find him.
- 2 He has trying to fix the car all morning.
- 3 I have buying lots of food this week.
- 4 I not have brought any shampoo.
- 5 It has been snowed, but it's stopped now.
- 6 How long they have been cleaning the house?
- 7 I've been knowing Lillian for two years.
- 8 Have you cried? Your eyes are red.

## Present Perfect Continuous

## Revision Box

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Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect continuous, the present continuous or the present simple.

	SUNDAY 13
Dear Diary,	Sunday 13/6/98
It's Sunday again. I 1) (not/k Mum is in the kitchen. She 3)	know) what to do.
(cook). She <b>4)</b> eight o'clock this morning. Do (mow) the	(cook) since ad's in the garden. He <b>5)</b> lawn for two hours.
He <b>6)</b> garden on Sunday mornings. 7)(do(study) fo	Jimmy is in his room. He ) his homework. He <b>8)</b>
hour. He 9) me. Grandpa 10) per and Grandma 11)	(read) his newspa- (knit). She
12) (knit weeks. The jumper is yellow (hate) yellow. I 14)	and 1 13)
bedroom all morning. You're m	y only companion

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#### Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

A	Today 1)is (be) my father's birthday. We 2) (have) a party tonight, but he 3) (not/know) anything about it. I 4) (phone) all of his friends yesterday and 5) (ask) them to come to our house at 7 o'clock. It 6)
В	Samuel is a writer. He 1) (write) children's books. At the moment he 2) (write) a story about animals. He 3) (write) another book when this one is finished.
С	My dog is called Ralph. I 1)



The people below like doing different things. Look at the table. In pairs, ask and answer questions, as in the example.

e.g. SA: How long have you been playing football?

SB: I've been playing football for two years.

SA: How many matches have you played so far?

SB: I've played 60 matches.

Name	How long	How many
Oliver	play football two years	play 60 matches
Jessica Hill	paint pictures 1993	paint 10 pictures
3 Amanda Price	take photos nine months	take 300 photos
Darren Mason	climb mountains 1992	climb 4 mountains
5 Jim Brown	make pots six months	make 40 pots
Fiona Carson	write books 1985	write 4 books



Look at your notes from the Oral Activity above and write about the people and their hobbies. Begin like this:

Oliver Jones' hobby is playing football. He has been playing football for two years. He has played sixty matches so far. Jessica Hill's hobby is ......