

Present Perfect Continuous

Form: has / has been + verb -ing

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I have been working.	Have I been working?	I have not been working.
You have been working.	Have you been working?	She has not been working.
He has been working.	Has he been working?	You have not been working.
She has been working.	Has she been working?	He has not been working.
It has been working.	Has it been working?	It has not been working.
We have been working.	Have we been working?	We have not been working.
You have been working.	Have you been working?	You have not been working.
They have been working.	Have they been working?	They have not been working.

Short form	Negative-Interrogative	Short form
I've been working ...	Haven't you been working? ...	I haven't been working ...



He **has been playing** football with his friends all afternoon.



John **has been working** since 10 o'clock this morning.

1. Fill in the present perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- The children **have been studying** (study) since breakfast.
- We (think) of buying a house since last year.
- (you/feel) ill for a long time?
- Chris (try) to fix the motorbike since Tuesday.
- He (play) football with his friends all afternoon.
- They (watch) a comedy film for over an hour.
- Annie (do) her homework since 10 o'clock this morning.
- How long (he/work) as a doctor?
- I (do) more exercise for two hours.
- I (not eat) chocolate or sweets.
- Jane (cook) dinner since this morning.
- She (work) in her since 7 o'clock.
- You're late! We (wait) at the station for an hour.
- Sorry. I (help) my sister with her homework.

2. Rewrite the sentences in the correct order.

- living / you / long? / Have / been / here
Have you been living here long?
- has / My / been / here / since / working / 2003. / teacher
.....
- hasn't / been / feeling / Maria / well / since last night.
.....
- long / you / English? / learning / How / been / have
.....
- since / haven't / I / September. / been / working
.....
- studying / years / been / for / French / has / Jack
.....
- has / been / She / learning / six / Spanish / for / months.
.....
- you / been / How / have / painting / long / your house?
.....
- waiting / for / been / o'clock. / you / since / six / I / have
.....
- the / phone / for / been / talking / on / an / hour / Julia / has
.....

Present Perfect Continuous is used:

- for actions which started in the past and continue up to the present.



He **has been making** a cake since 11 o'clock.
(He's still making a cake.)

- for past actions of certain duration which have visible results or effects, in the present.
*Bob is very tired. He **has been working** all day long.*
- to express irritation, anger, annoyance, explanation or criticism.
*Who **has been reading** my business papers? (showing anger)*
- to put emphasis on duration, usually with for, since or how long.
*I've **been typing** letters since 9 o'clock.*

Note: With the verbs live, feel and work we can use either Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous with no difference in meaning.

*I've **been living** in London for a year. or I've **lived** in London for a year.*

Non-continuous verbs are not used in Present Perfect Continuous (know, believe, see, like, love, taste, understand, want, etc.)

*I've **known** her since 2002. (NOT: I've **been knowing** her since 2002.)*

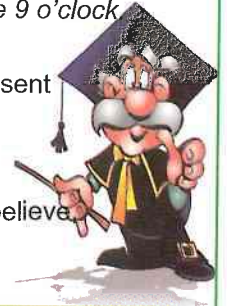
Present Perfect is used:

- for actions recently completed.



He **has made** a cake.
(The cake is in his hand, so the action has finished.)

- for actions which happened at an unstated time.
*James **has bought** a new car.*
- to express personal experiences or changes which have happened.
*I've **lost** a lot of weight.*
- put emphasis on number.
*I've **only typed** three letters since 9 o'clock*



Time adverbs used with Present Perfect Continuous:	Time adverbs and expressions used with Present Perfect:
for, since, how long	just, ever, never, always, already, yet, for, since, so far, how long, recently, today, this week / month / year, once, etc.

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

A: My back hurts.

B: That's because you ¹ **have been working** (work) all day.

A: I know. But at least I ² (finish) with the gardening.

A: You look tired. What ³ (you/do)?

B: I ⁴ (play) tennis with Evita.

A: Oh yes. I ⁵ (see) her play before. She's good, isn't she?

B: Yes, she is. She ⁶ (beat) me five times since the beginning of summer.

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

1 Don't walk in there! I **have just cleaned** (just/clean) the floor.

2 Jane's hungry. She (not/eat) since breakfast.

3 He is tired. He (study) for four hours.

4 I don't want to see that film again. I (already/see) it twice.

5 Sandy (teach) English for ten years.

6 Bruno (not/do) the washing-up yet.

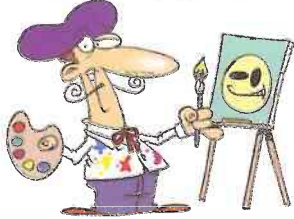
7 He (work) all morning.

8 They (play) in the garden for two hours.

5. Complete the sentences by putting the verbs in brackets into the present perfect or the present perfect continuous.

- recently completed action • unstated time
- anger or annoyance • emphasis on duration
- personal experience • ~~visible results~~

1 *visible results*



He *has been painting* (paint) a picture.

2



He (just/win) the race.

3



..... (you/read) my e-mails again?

4



They (plant) trees since morning.

5



He (try) skiing.

6



She (buy) a pet dog.

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

- 1 I'm sorry. I didn't get your message because (I/not/work) in my own office today.
- 2 (the neighbours/make) a lot of noise again today?
- 3 (we/watch) this programme for hours.
- 4 (I/read) this book for months, but I haven't finished it yet.
- 5 (Wendy/learn) French at school for three years.
- 6 (you/listen) to me carefully?
- 7 How long (you/do) that puzzle?

7. Complete the sentences using the words below.

- dig • ~~have~~ • make • read • tidy • use
- wash • watch • work



Mother: Why are there dirty plates and glasses in the living room?

Linda : Because Peter *has been having* a party.

Mother: And why are all the toys in Jenny's bedroom on the floor?

Linda : Because she her cupboards.

Mother: And why is Clare soaking wet?

Linda : She her dolls in the bath?

Mother: And why is this carpet dirty?

Linda : Because the dog in the garden.

Mother: And why is the television on?

Linda : Because Peter's friends a video.

Mother: And why are you covered in flour?

Linda : Because I some cakes.

Mother: And why are all these magazines on the floor?

Linda : Daddy them.

Mother: Jack! Why is this place in such a mess?

Jack : I don't know, dear. I the computer in the study.

Mother: Well, I all day and now I need some help to tidy up!

8. Complete the sentences using the present perfect continuous and since or for.

- 1 She started her course a month ago and she is still doing it.
She has been doing her course for a month.
- 2 I started reading this novel last weekend and I'm still reading it.
.....
- 3 It started raining at three o'clock and it is still raining.
.....
- 4 He started playing chess when he was ten and he still plays it.
.....
- 5 I started working at eight o'clock and I'm still working.
.....
- 6 Helen started looking for another job two months ago and she's still looking.
.....
- 7 We arrived here two hours ago and we're still waiting.
.....

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

- 1 Please, hurry up! You *have been talking* (talk) on the phone for over an hour.
- 2 I'm tired! I (work) hard all day.
- 3 (you/post) the letter yet?
- 4 Tony and Nick (take) karate lessons since April.
- 5 (you/see) my glasses? I can't find them anywhere.
- 6 I (not/go) to the gym for over a month.
- 7 Who (use) my laptop without asking me?
- 8 He (not/catch) any fish yet.
- 9 How long (the kids/watch) TV?

10. Make sentences using the present perfect continuous and complete the dialogues.

- How long / you / study physics
- Who / you / talk to
- Where / you / sleep
- What / you / eat
- you / work / hard
- you / follow / the elections start
- How long / you / learn French
- Where / you / shop
- Why / you / run
- What / you / read
- you / wait / long
- How long / you / try / to win the lottery

- 1 A: *Have you been working hard?*
B: Yes, I've done all my work.
- 2 A:
B: For six years. I can speak it fluently.
- 3 A:
B: I got up late, and I missed my bus.
- 4 A:
B: Chocolate. Would you like some?
- 5 A:
B: In the living room. The bedroom was too cold.
- 6 A:
B: For four years. I'm at Aberdeen University.
- 7 A:
B: No, I've only been here about ten minutes.
- 8 A:
B: A book about America. It's fascinating.
- 9 A:
B: At Harrods. I bought a new watch.
- 10 A:
B: Yes, sometimes one party is ahead and sometimes another.