

PRESENT PERFECT (Grammar)

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS: USES

Repeated continuing events

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about repeated activities which started at a particular time in the past and are still continuing up until now:

- *I've been going to Spain on holiday every year since 1987.*
- *I haven't been eating much lunch lately. I've been going to the gym at lunchtimes.*
- *She's been playing tennis on and off for three years.*

How long ...?

We often use the present perfect continuous to ask and answer questions about the duration of an activity. We use the question How long ...+ present perfect continuous:

A: How long have you been waiting for me?

B: About ten minutes. Not too long. (I've been waiting for about ten minutes.)

More examples:

- *How long have you been living abroad?*
- *How long have you been living in the United States?*
- *I've been living here for ten years.*
- *I've been living here since 2005.*

WARNING

The Present Perfect Continuous form is not normally used with verbs that refer to actions that are completed at a single point in time: Start / Stop / Finish.

- *Has the concert started already?*

- *They haven't known each other for very long.*
 - Not: *They haven't been knowing.*

WARNING 2

Some verbs are not used very often in the continuous form. They are mental process and sense verbs. We don't use the continuous form with verbs of mental process: Know / Like / Understand / Believe.

- *They haven't known each other for very long.*

WARNING 3

We don't use the continuous form with verbs of the senses: Hear / Smell / Taste.

- *Have you heard the news?*
 - Not: *Have you been hearing the news?*

SPOKEN ENGLISH

In speaking, you will sometimes hear these verbs used in the continuous form to refer to events that are ongoing or temporary.

- *I've been hearing some strange noises coming from the outside.*

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE X PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Present Perfect Simple
A finished activity in the past.

Present Perfect Continuous
Unfinished activity.

We use the present perfect tense to talk about things where there is a connection between the past and the present.

- *He's written 16 books.*

He started writing books at some time in the past. So far, he has written 16 books. He may write more books.

As well as the **present perfect simple**, we can use the **present perfect continuous** tense to talk about events with a connection to the present.

Look at these examples:

- *I've read that book you lent me.* I finished it yesterday.
- *I've been reading that book you lent me.* I've got another 50 pages to read.

The **present perfect simple** (*I've read*) gives the idea of completion while the **present perfect continuous** (*I've been reading*) suggests that something is unfinished.

Look at these examples:

- *She's been writing emails for 3 hours.*
- *She's written 10 messages.*

The **present perfect continuous** (*has been writing*) talks about how long something has been happening. The **present perfect simple** (*has written*) talks about how much/how many have been completed.

Recent past activities

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about a finished activity in the recent past. Using the present perfect continuous focuses on the activity.

We don't give a specific time. Even though the activity is finished, we can see the result in the present:

- *I've just been cleaning the car.* (The car is wet and clean.)
- *It's been snowing.* (The ground is covered in snow.)
- *What have you been buying?*

One continuing event

We use the present perfect continuous for a single activity that began at a point in the past and is still continuing:

- *I've been reading your book – it's great.* (I'm still reading it.)
- *He's been living in the village since 1995.* (He is still living in the village.)
- *She has been writing her autobiography since 1987.*

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS: FORM

We use *have/has* + *been* + the *-ing* form of the verb.

AFFIRMATIVE	<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>	has have	been working.
NEGATIVE	<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>	(full form) has not have not	been working.
<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>	(short form) hasn't haven't		
QUESTION + AFFIRMATIVE	Has Have	<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>	been working?
QUESTION + NEGATIVE	(full form) Has Have	<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>	not been working?
(short form) Hasn't Haven't	<i>she, he, it I, you, we, they</i>		

Informações extraídas do site:

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/pt/gramatica/gramatica-britanica/present/present-perfect-continuous-i-have-been-working>
<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/intermediate-grammar/present-perfect-simple-and-present-perfect-continuous>