

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1. For unfinished actions which started in the past and are still true now.

Ex. He **has been waiting** for you all day.
(= and he's still waiting now.)

I've been working on this report since eight o'clock this morning.

Remember that some verbs rarely take the continuous form.

I've always loved poetry.

2. For a continuous action in the past which has recently finished. (You can often see the results of the action when you speak)

She **has been cooking** since last night (= and the food on the table looks delicious)

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE OR CONTINUOUS?

1. We use the **present perfect continuous** form to say **how long** something has been happening:

*Ann has been writing letters all day.
Jim has been playing tennis since 2 o'clock.*

2. We use the **present perfect simple** form to say **how much** we have done, how many things we have done...

*Ann has written ten letters today.
Jim has played tennis three times this week.*

The **simple** form expresses a completed action.

Who has been eating my food? (there is still some food left)

Who has eaten my food? (there is nothing left)

Form:

- Affirmative: Have/ has + been + -ing
- Negative: Haven't / hasn't + been + -ing
- Questions: Have you been + -ing...? / Has he been + -ing

PRACTICE:

1. Fill in the blanks with the Present Perfect Continuous form of the verbs in brackets
 - a. I _____ (clean) the house all day.
 - b. Kevin _____ (live) in his friend's flat since last year.
 - c. I _____ (read) The Post for the last ten years.
 - d. Take your coat! It _____ (snow) since early this morning.
 - e. Gillian _____ (not study) well recently. She _____ (think) about her trip to the Far East.
 - f. The Scientist _____ (work) on that experiment for the last two weeks.
 - g. The teenagers _____ (discuss) the rock concert for the last hour.
 - h. I _____ (bake) cakes all morning.

2. Fill in the blanks with the Present Perfect Continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- a. The children are tired because they _____ (play) hide-and-seek since ten o'clock this morning.
- b. Your face is all red! _____ (you/sit) on the beach all day long?
- c. Here is my wallet! I _____ (look) for it for days.
- d. "Your hands are dirty!" "That's because we _____ (bake) a cake for you, mummy."
- e. Please pay attention! You _____ (not listen) at all!
- f. John really needs a holiday. He _____ (work) so hard recently.
- g. What a mess in the living room! _____ (you / entertain) your friends?

3. Fill in the blanks with The Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous form of the verbs in brackets. There may be more than one possible answer.

1. I _____ (own) this car since 1993.
2. Carol _____ (try) to contact her doctor twice today, and Jim _____ (try) since yesterday.
3. The detectives _____ (investigate) the robbery for two months now, but they _____ (not solve) it yet.
4. Mrs Smith _____ (tour) Italy for the last three weeks. She _____ (visit) the Leaning Tower of Pisa and she _____ (climb) to the top of St Peter's in Rome.
5. Mike _____ (write) four reports so far this week and he feels like he _____ (write) for a month!
6. He _____ (visit) his son in hospital three times this week.
7. I _____ (know) Tom all my life. Lately, he _____ (drive) me crazy with his idea of climbing the Mount Everest. I _____ (not decide) yet whether to ignore him or to get excited about the idea.
8. In the last few weeks, I _____ (have) problems with my car. I _____ (have) this car for over ten years and I _____ (drive) it all these years without any problems. However, for the last few weeks it _____ (break down) regularly.