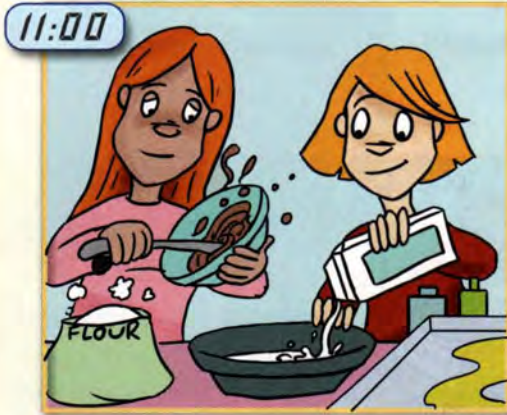


Present Perfect Continuous is used:

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



They **have been making biscuits** since 11 o'clock. (They're still making biscuits.)

- 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.

Present Perfect is used:

- for actions recently completed.



They **have made** a lot of biscuits. (The biscuits are on the plate, 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.

- to put emphasis on number.

I've **only typed three** 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.)

Time adverbs used with Present Perfect Continuous:

for, since, how long

Time adverbs and expressions used with Present Perfect:

just, ever, never, always, already, yet, for, since, so far, how long, recently, today, this week / month / year, once, etc.

5

Present Perfect Continuous

2 Identify the speech situations, then 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*

2

3



He *has been painting* (paint) his room.

She (just/win) the race.

(you/read) my emails again?

4

5

6



They (plant) trees since morning.

He (try) skiing.

They (buy) a pet dog.

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 start of summer.

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



Pam: What are you doing, Ben?
 Ben: I 1) *'ve been looking through* . (look through) my old toy box all morning. It brings back lots of memories. Look, I 2) (find) my old train set!
 Pam: You 3) (play) with those trains for over an hour. I 4) (watch) you.
 Ben: They're great! I 5) (not/have) so much fun for years. Look at this one!

Pam: Yes, Ben – it's a very nice train. But 6) (you/see) the time?
 Ben: No... Why?
 Pam: It's 10:30 am. Your boss 7) (just/phone) from the office.
 Ben: What for?
 Pam: He 8) (wait) for you all morning. You have an important meeting.
 Ben: Oh no! I lost track of time!

5 Write one word for each space.

Dear Jessica,

How 1) *are* things? I'm sorry that I haven't sent you an email but I've been really busy lately.

For the last two days, I have 2) organising a surprise party for my best friend, Sally. I have 3) decorated the house with balloons and coloured lights. I still have so many things to do but luckily, Sophie and Pat have been helping with the preparations.

So far, Sophie 4) invited all our friends 5) Pat has bought Sally's present but we haven't ordered a cake or bought any snacks and soft drinks 6) Anyway, we've got plenty of time till Saturday. I'm sure everything 7) be fine.

8) have you been doing lately? Have you decided 9) you'll visit us? I hope you can come during the summer holidays. I do miss you.

Write soon. I can't wait 10) hear all your news.

Love,
 Pamela