

A

You can use the present perfect (**I have done**) for new or recent happenings:

- ☐ I've **emailed** her, but she **hasn't replied**.
- ☐ You've **done** great work on the project. Congratulations!
- ☐ The police **have arrested** two people in connection with the robbery.

You can also use the simple past (**I lost**, she **went**, etc.):

- ☐ I **emailed** her, but she **didn't reply**.
- ☐ You **did** great work on the project. Congratulations!
- ☐ The police **arrested** two people in connection with the robbery.

B

When we say that "something **has happened**," this is *new* information:

- ☐ I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.
- ☐ "Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy." "That's great news."

Use the simple past (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- ☐ Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. (*not* has been ... has written)
- ☐ My mother **grew** up in Chile. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- ☐ Somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine.
- ☐ Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)



C

The present perfect always tells us something about now:

- ☐ I'm sorry, but I've **forgotten** your name. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ Sally isn't here. She's **gone** out to the country for a few days. (= she is in the country *now*)
- ☐ It's (= It has) **stopped** raining. (= it isn't raining *now*)
- ☐ He's **changed** a lot. (= he looks very different *now*)

You can also use the simple past in these examples ("I **forgot** your name," etc.).

Use the simple past (*not* the present perfect) if the situation now is different:

- ☐ Sally **went** out to the country for a few days, but she's back now. (*not* Sally has gone out)
- ☐ It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

D

You can use the simple past or present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

just = a short time ago

- ☐ A: Are you hungry?
- B: No, I **just had** lunch. or I've **just had** lunch.

already = sooner than expected

- ☐ A: What time is Mark leaving?
- B: He **already left**. or He's **already left**.

yet = until now (in questions and negative sentences)

Yet shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen (see Unit 108).

- ☐ **Did it stop** raining **yet**? or **Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ Sally is still here. She **didn't leave yet**. or She **hasn't left yet**.

Exercises

8.1 Complete the sentences. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise, use the simple past.

1

It has stopped (stop) raining, so you don't need an umbrella.



2

before

now

The town (change) a lot.



3

I meant to call you last night but I (forget).



4

Mary (go) to New York on vacation, but she's back home now.

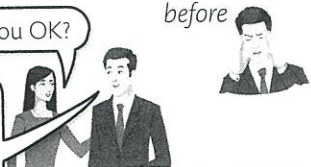


5

Are you OK?

before

Yes, I (have) a headache, but it's OK now.

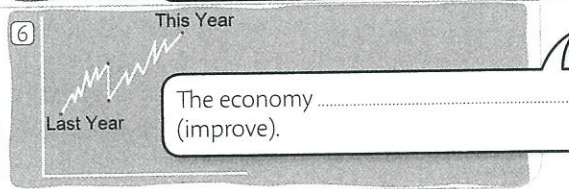


6

This Year

Last Year

The economy (improve).



8.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences OK? Correct them where necessary.

- Did you hear about Sophie? She's given up her job.
- My mother has grown up in Italy.
- How many plays has William Shakespeare written?
- I know him, but I've forgotten his name. Is it Joe or Jack?
- Who has invented paper?
- Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- We've washed the car, but now it's dirty again.
- "Where have you been born?" "In Seattle."
- Mary has gone shopping. She'll be back in about an hour.
- Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.
- I have applied for a job as a tour guide, but I wasn't successful.

OK

My mother grew up

8.3 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already**, or **yet**.

- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, "Would you like something to eat?"
You say: No, thank you. I just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the doorbell rings, and the person at the door says, "Is Joe here?"
You say: I'm sorry. (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to clear the table.
You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- You are going to a restaurant tonight. You call to make a reservation. Later, your friend says, "Should I make a reservation?" You say: No, (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Maybe she has been successful.
Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go on vacation. A friend asks, "Where are you going on vacation?"
You say: (not / decide)
- Liz went to the bank, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, "Is Liz still at the bank?"
You say: No, (come back)
- Yesterday Carol invited you to a party on Saturday. Now another friend is inviting you to the same party.
You say: Thanks, but Carol (invite)

Present Perfect Continuous (I have been doing)

A

It's been raining.

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It's been raining. (= It **has** been ...)**have/has been + -ing** is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	have has	(= I've, etc.) (= he's, etc.)	been	doing working learning etc.
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We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped:

- ☐ Why are you out of breath? **Have you been running?**
- ☐ Ryan is very tired. **He's been working** hard.
- ☐ Why are you so tired? What **have you been doing?**
- ☐ **I've been talking** to Amanda and she agrees with me.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you.

have/has been + -ing
present perfect continuous

now

B

It's been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago, and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?****It's been raining** for two hours. (= It **has** been ...)We use the present perfect continuous in this way especially with **how long for...** and **since...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- ☐ **How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- ☐ Ben is watching TV. **He's been watching** TV all day.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you for the last half hour.
- ☐ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well lately. (= recently)

You can use the present perfect continuous for repeated actions:

- ☐ Silvia is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing** since she was eight.
- ☐ Every morning they meet in the same coffee shop. **They've been going** there for years.

C

Compare **I am doing** and **I have been doing**:

I am doing
present continuous
now

- ☐ Don't disturb me now. **I'm working.**
- ☐ We need an umbrella. **It's raining.**
- ☐ Hurry up! **We're waiting.**

I have been doing
present perfect continuous
now

- ☐ **I've been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. **It's been raining.**
- ☐ **We've been waiting** for an hour.

Exercises

Unit
9

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

<p>①</p> <p>earlier</p> <p>now</p> <p>It's <i>been</i> raining</p>	<p>②</p> <p>earlier</p> <p>now</p> <p>She</p>	<p>③</p> <p>earlier</p> <p>now</p> <p>They</p>	<p>④</p> <p>earlier</p> <p>now</p> <p>He</p>
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9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- You meet Kate as she is leaving the swimming pool. You say:
Hi, Kate. (you / swim?) *Have you been swimming?*
- You have arrived a little too late to meet Ben, who is waiting for you. You say:
I'm sorry I'm late, Ben. (you / wait / long?)
- Emma's little boy comes into the house with a very dirty face and dirty hands. His mother says:
Why are you so dirty? (what / you / do?)
- You are in a store and see Anna. You didn't know she worked there. You say:
Hi, Anna. (how long / you / work / here?)
- A friend tells you about his job—he sells phones. You say:
You sell phones? (how long / you / do / that?)

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It *'s been* raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Japanese. I started classes in December.
I since December.
- Jessica is working in a hotel. She started working there on January 18.
..... since January 18.
- Our friends always go to Mexico for their vacations. The first time was years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (am/is/are + -ing) or present perfect continuous (have/has been + -ing).

- Maria has been learning* (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- Hi, Tom. (I / look) for you. I need to ask you something.
- Why (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- Rachel is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
- (I / think) about what you said, and I've decided to take your advice.
- "Is Eric on vacation this week?" "No, (he / work)."
- Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard lately.
- It's dangerous to use your phone when (you / drive).
- Jessica (travel) in South America for the last three months.

Present Perfect Continuous and Simple
(I have been doing and I have done)

A

Compare these two situations:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.
She **has been painting** her bedroom.

has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking about the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



The bedroom was green. Now it is yellow.
She **has painted** her bedroom.

has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. "She **has painted**" is a completed action. We are thinking about the *result* of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- ☐ My hands are very dirty. **I've been repairing** my bike.
- ☐ Joe **has been eating** too much lately. He should eat less.
- ☐ It's nice to see you again. What **have** you **been doing** since we last met?
- ☐ Where have you been? **Have** you **been playing** tennis?

- ☐ My bike is OK again now. **I've repaired it.** (= I've finished repairing it)
- ☐ Somebody **has eaten** all the chocolates. The box is empty.
- ☐ Where's the book I gave you? What **have** you **done** with it?
- ☐ **Have** you ever **played** tennis?

C

Compare:

We use the *continuous* to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- ☐ How long **have** you **been reading** that book?
- ☐ Amy is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- ☐ They've **been playing** tennis since 2:00.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but **I haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the *simple* to say *how much*, *how many* or *how many times* (for completed actions):

- ☐ How many pages of that book **have** you **read**?
- ☐ Amy **has sent** lots of emails this morning.
- ☐ They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but **I haven't learned** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know**) are not normally used in continuous forms (**be** + **-ing**):

- ☐ I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (*not* I've been knowing)
- ☐ How long **have** you **had** that camera? (*not* have you been having)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 16.

But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous (**have/has been** + **-ing**):

- ☐ I've **been meaning** to phone Anna, but I keep forgetting.

Present Perfect Simple → Unit 7 Present Perfect Continuous → Unit 9
Present Perfect + **for/since** → Units 11–12

Exercises

Unit
10

10.1 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in parentheses.

- Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it, and now he is on page 53.
He has been reading for two hours. (read)
He has read 53 pages so far. (read)
- Rachel is from Australia. She is traveling around Europe. She began her trip three months ago.
She for three months. (travel)
..... six countries so far. (visit)
- Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was 10 years old. This year he won the national championship again—for the fourth time.
..... the national championship four times. (win)
..... since he was ten. (play)
- When they left college, Liz and Sue started making movies together. They still make movies.
They movies since they left college. (make)
..... five movies since they left college. (make)

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in parentheses. Use the present perfect simple (have/has done) or continuous (have/has been doing).

- You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(wait / long?) Have
- You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(catch / any fish?)
- Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?)
- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?)
- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?)
(how long / write / books?)
- A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:
(how long / save?)
(how much money / save?)

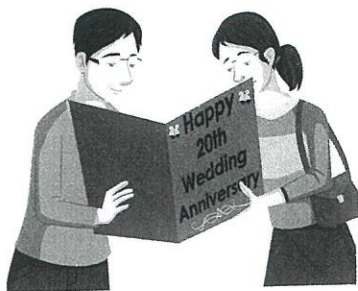
10.3 Put the verb into the present perfect simple or continuous.

- Where have you been? Have you been playing (you/play) tennis?
- Look! (somebody/break) that window.
- You look tired. (you/work) hard?
- "..... (you/ever/work) in a factory?" "No, never."
- Where's Megan? Where (she/go)?
- This is a very old book. (I/have) it since I was a child.
- "Have you been busy?" "No, (I/watch) TV."
- My brother is an actor. (he/appear) in several movies.
- "Sorry I'm late." "That's all right. (I/not/wait) long."
- Are you OK? You look as if (you/cry).
- "Is it still raining?" "No, (it/stop)."
- The children are tired now. (they/play) in the yard.
- (I/lose) my phone. (you/see) it?
- (I/read) the book you lent me, but
..... (I/not/finish) it yet. It's really interesting.
- (I/read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.

How long have you (been) ... ?

A

Study this example situation:



Dan and Kate are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (*present*)

but How long have they **been** married?
(*not* How long are they married?)
They **have been** married **for 20 years**.
(*not* They are married for 20 years)

(*present perfect*)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now.
Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- ☐ Matt is in the hospital.
but He's **been** in the hospital **since Monday**. (= He **has been** ...)
(*not* Matt is in the hospital since Monday)
- ☐ We **know** each other very well.
but We've **known** each other **for a long time**.
(*not* We know)
- ☐ Do they **have** a car?
but How long **have** they **had** their car?
- ☐ She's **waiting** for somebody.
but She **hasn't been** waiting very long.

present
he is
we know
do they have
she is waiting

present perfect
he has been
we have known
have they had
she has been waiting

past

now

B

I've **known** / I've **had** / I've **lived**, etc., is the *present perfect simple*.

I've **been learning** / I've **been waiting**, etc., is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say "how long," the continuous is more common (see Unit 10):

- ☐ I've **been learning** English **since January**.
☐ It's **been raining** all morning.
☐ Richard **has been doing** the same job **for 20 years**.
☐ "How long **have you been driving**?" "Since I was 17."

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ How long **have you known** Jane? (*not* have you been knowing)
☐ I've **had** these shoes for ages. (*not* I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 11C. For **have**, see Unit 16.

C

You can use either the continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- ☐ Julia **has been living** in this house for a long time. or Julia **has lived** ...
☐ How long **have you been working** here? or How long **have you worked** here?

But we use the simple (**have lived**, etc.) with **always**:

- ☐ I've **always lived** in the country. (*not* always been living)

D

We say "I **haven't** (done something) **since/for** ..." (*present perfect simple*):

- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
☐ Sarah **hasn't called** for ages. (= the last time she called was ages ago)

Exercises

11.1 Which is right?

- Ben is a friend of mine. I know / ~~I've known~~ him very well. (*I know is correct*)
- I like your house. How long do you live / have you lived here?
- You'll need an umbrella if you go out now. It's raining / It's been raining.
- The weather is / has been awful since I arrived here.
- I'm sorry I'm late. Are you waiting / Have you been waiting long?
- We've moved. We're living / We've been living on New Street now.
- I met Maria just recently. I don't know / I haven't known her very long.
- Lauren is in Germany. She's / She's been there on a business trip.
- That's a very old bike. How long do you have / have you had it?
- I'm not feeling well. I'm feeling / I've been feeling sick all day.

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in parentheses.

- A friend tells you that Chris is in the hospital. You ask him:
(how long / Chris / the hospital?) How long has Chris been in the hospital?
- You know that Anna is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Anna:
(how long / you / know / Katherine?)
- Your friend's sister went to Australia some time ago, and she's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / sister / in Australia?)
- You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / you / teach / English?)
- Tom always wears the same jacket. It's very old. You ask him:
(how long / you / have / that jacket?)
- You are talking to a friend about Joe, who now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / Joe / work / airport?)
- You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(you / always / live / in Chicago?)

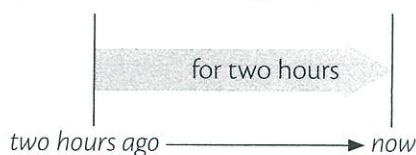
11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

- | A | B |
|---|--|
| 1 Alex is in the hospital, isn't he? | Yes, he <u>has been</u> in the hospital since Monday. |
| 2 Do you see Nicole very often? | No, I <u>haven't seen</u> her for three months. |
| 3 Is Sam married? | Yes, he married for ten years. |
| 4 Is Amy married? | Yes, she married to a German guy. |
| 5 Do you still play tennis? | No, I tennis for years. |
| 6 Are you waiting for the bus? | Yes, I for about 20 minutes. |
| 7 You know Julia, don't you? | Yes, we each other a long time. |
| 8 Jack is never sick, is he? | No, he sick since I met him. |
| 9 Brian lives in Italy, doesn't he? | Yes, he in Milan. |
| 10 Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she? | Yes, she in Berlin for many years. |
| 11 Is Joe watching TV? | Yes, he TV all evening. |
| 12 Do you watch TV a lot? | No, I TV since last weekend. |
| 13 Do you have a headache? | Yes, I a headache all morning. |
| 14 Do you go to the movies a lot? | No, I to the movies for ages. |
| 15 Would you like to go to Hong Kong one day? | Yes, I to go to Hong Kong.
(use always / want) |

A We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** + a period of time:

- ☐ We've been waiting **for two hours**.

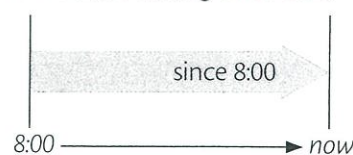


for		
two hours	a long time	a week
20 minutes	six months	ages
five days	50 years	years

- ☐ Emily has been working here **for six months**. (not since six months)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **for three days**.

We use **since** + the start of a period:

- ☐ We've been waiting **since 8:00**.



since		
8:00	April	lunchtime
Monday	2009	we arrived
May 12	Christmas	I got up

- ☐ Emily has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**.

B We sometimes leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- ☐ They've been married (for) **ten years**. (with or without **for**)
- ☐ They **haven't had** a vacation **for** ten years. (you need **for**)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ...**, etc.):

- ☐ They **haven't had** a vacation **in ten years**. (= **for** ten years)

We do *not* use **for** + **all ...** (**all day** / **all my life**, etc.):

- ☐ I've lived here **all my life**. (not for all my life)

C Compare **when ... ?** (+ *past simple*) and **how long ... ?** (+ *present perfect*):



A: **When** did it start raining?

B: It started raining **an hour ago** / **at 1:00**.

A: **How long** has it been raining?

B: It's been raining **for an hour** / **since 1:00**.



A: **When** did Joe and Kate first meet?

B: They first met { **a long time ago**.
when they were in high school.

A: **How long** have they known each other?

B: They've known each other { **for a long time**.
since they were in high school.

D We say "**It's** (= It has) **been a long time** / **two years**, etc., since something happened":

- ☐ **It's been two years since** I last saw Joe. (= I **haven't seen** Joe for two years)
- ☐ **It's been ages since** we went to the movies. (= We **haven't been** to the movies for ages)
- ☐ **How long has it been since** Mrs. Hill died? (= when did she die?)

Exercises

12.1 Write for or since.

- 1 It's been raining since lunchtime.
- 2 Sarah has lived in Seattle 2015.
- 3 Dan has lived in Brazil ten years.
- 4 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here an hour.
- 5 Kevin has been looking for a job he left school.
- 6 I haven't been to a party ages.
- 7 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him last week.
- 8 Liz is away on vacation. She's been away Friday.
- 9 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.

12.2 Look at each answer and choose the right question.

- 1

How long have they been married?
When did they get married?

Ten years ago.

(When did they get married? is correct)
- 2

How long have you had this car?
When did you buy this car?

About five years.
- 3

How long have you been waiting?
When did you get here?

Only a few minutes.
- 4

How long have you been taking the class?
When did the class start?

September.
- 5

How long has Anna been in New York?
When did Anna arrive in New York?

Last week.
- 6

How long have you known each other?
When did you first meet each other?

A long time.

12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 Anna and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.
- 3 Josh is sick. He got sick on Sunday. He has Sunday.
- 4 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got
- 5 You have a headache. It started when you woke up.
I've I woke up.
- 6 Sue is in a meeting at work. It's been going on since 9:00.
The meeting at 9:00.
- 7 You're working in a hotel. You started working there six months ago.
I've been
- 8 Kate is learning Japanese. She's been doing this for a long time.
Kate started

12.4 Complete B's sentences.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Do you take vacations often? 2 Have you seen Amy recently? 3 Do you still go swimming? 4 Do you still ride a bike? | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> No, I <u>haven't taken a vacation for</u> five years. No, I about a month. No, I a long time. No, I ages. |
|---|--|

Now write B's answers again. This time use **It's been ... since ...**

- 5 (1) No, it's been five years since I last took a vacation.
- 6 (2) No, it's
- 7 (3) No,
- 8 (4)