

GRAMMAR FOCUS

1.5 Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to talk about:

- actions that started in the past and continue into the present:
*I **have been waiting** for her since 8 o'clock.*
- events that lasted for some time (and may continue into the present) and whose results can be seen now:
*I'm tired because I **'ve been painting** all day.*

Like the Present Perfect Simple, common time expressions used with the Present Perfect Continuous include *for* and *since*.

Affirmative		Negative	
I/You/We/They	've (have) been crying.	I/ You/ We/ They	haven't (have not) been crying.
He/She/It	's (has)	He/ She/ It	hasn't (has not)
Yes / No questions		Short answers	
Have	I/you/we/they been crying?	Yes, I/you/we/they have. No, I/you/we/they haven't.	
Has	he/she/it	Yes, he/she/it has. No, he/she/it hasn't.	
Wh- questions		Subject questions	
How long	I/you/we/they have been crying? he/she/it has	Who	has been crying?

Present Perfect Continuous or Present Perfect Simple?

- We use the Present Perfect Continuous to focus on an action or process (which may or may not be complete). Questions in the Present Perfect Continuous often begin with *how long*:
***How long has she been writing** books?*
- We use the Present Perfect Simple to focus on an achievement or the result of an action. Questions in the Present Perfect Simple often begin with *how many*:
How many books has he written?
- We don't use *when* in questions in either of the two tenses.
- State verbs are generally used in the Present Perfect Simple only.

1 Use the prompts to write sentences in the Present Perfect Continuous. Add *since* or *for* where necessary.

- I / study / art / 2009
- how long / you / wear / your glasses?
- you / swim / all afternoon?
- it / rain / two hours now
- we / not watch / the match
- my parents / study / English / five years
- how long / Juana / work / in that restaurant?
- Amy / surf / the Internet / all day?
- my sister / work / as a photographer / three years
- Hannah and Eve / study / for their exam / all evening?

2 Choose the correct options.

- I've *looked* / *been looking* for you for an hour!
- How many paintings have you *sold* / *been selling*?
- We have *traveled* / *been traveling* for a couple of weeks now.
- The professor has *answered* / *been answering* more than 100 questions about the Louvre.
- John has *known* / *been knowing* Cynthia since primary school.
- I've *seen* / *been seeing* most of his paintings. They are all amazing!
- How long *have you waited* / *have you been waiting*?
- Have you *written* / *been writing* your essay all morning?
- How many art galleries has Dan *been visiting* / *visited* today?
- How long have you *had* / *been having* this painting by van Gogh?

3 Complete the sentences about you. Use the Present Perfect Simple or Continuous.

- _____ since last weekend.
- _____ for at least a month.
- _____ since my last birthday party.
- _____ since yesterday.
- _____ for more than a year.
- _____ since I was ten.
- _____ for two days.
- _____ since I was a small child.