

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS - FORM

Suj + have/has + been + verb-ing + compl.

Suj + have/has + not + been + verb-ing + compl.

Have/has + suj + been + verb-ing + compl.?

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS – USES

The Present Perfect Continuous is used:

1. To talk about an action (quite a long one) which began in the past and has recently stopped or just stopped. In this case the result of the action is evident.

- *You're out of breath. Have you been running?*
- *That man over there is bright red. I think he's been sunbathing.*

2. To say how long something has been happening. This time the action or situation began in the past and is still happening or has just stopped.

- *It has been raining for two hours.*
- *George hasn't been feeling well recently.*

3. For actions repeated over a period of time and up to now.

- *She has been playing tennis since she was eight.*
- *How long have you been smoking?*

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS - TIME EXPRESSIONS

The time expressions used with the Present Perfect Continuous are **How Long**, **For**, **Since**, **Recently** and **Lately**.

FOR: It shows the period of time that the action has been going on. It can be translated by "durante" o "desde hace".

- *How long has she been living here? She has been living here for 10 years.*
- *They've been waiting here for over an hour.*

SINCE: It shows the moment in the past in which the action began. It is usually translated by "desde".

- *She has been living here since last Spring.*
- *You've been playing on that computer since seven o'clock.*

RECENTLY and **LATELY** both mean "in the last few days or weeks".

- *Mike has been playing chess recently.*

- *What have you been doing lately?*

THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

We use the *Present perfect continuous* for an action happening over a period of time. We're interested in the action. It doesn't matter whether something has been finished or not.

- *Mike has been repairing the car.*

We normally use the continuous form to say how long something has been happening.

- *Rachel has been playing music all day.*
- *I've been ironing shirts since ten o'clock.*

We cannot normally use the continuous form with a state verb.

- *I've known the secret for a long time.*
- *My parents have had this car for about ten years.*

LIVE and **WORK** can be continuous or simple, with no difference in meaning.

- *We've been living here since 1992.*
- *We've lived here since 1992.*
- *Sarah has been working for the company for three years now.*
- *Sarah has worked for the company for three years now.*



We use the *Present Perfect Simple* for a complete action. We are interested in the result of the action, not in the action itself.

- *Mike has repaired the car.*

We normally use the simple form to say how much we have done, how many things we have done, or how many times we have done something.

- *Rachel has played at least twenty CDs.*
- *I've ironed eight shirts.*