

PRESENT PERFECT
CONTINUOUS

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PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Present perfect continuous

	I / you / we / they	he / she / it
Common expressions	for, since, recently, lately, ...	
Affirmative	have been playing	has been playing
Negative	haven't been playing	hasn't been playing
Interrogative	Have ___ been thought... ?	Has ___ been thought... ?

Uses

1: To say how long for unfinished actions which started in the past and continue to the present.

We often use this with **for** and **since**. (Think about the **present perfect** for the same use with stative verbs)

- **I've been living** in London for two years.
- **She's been working** here since 2004.
- **We've been waiting** for the bus for hours.

Uses

2: Actions which have just stopped (though the whole action can be unfinished) and have a result, which we can often see, hear, or feel, in the present (focus on action).

- I'm so tired, I've **been studying**.
- I've **been running**, so I'm really hot.
- It's **been raining**, the pavement is wet.
- I've **been reading** your book, it's very good.

BE CAREFUL!!

Some English verbs, which we call state, non-continuous or stative verbs, aren't used in continuous tenses. These verbs often describe states that last for some time. Here is a list of some common ones:

like

know

belong

love

realise

fit

hate

suppose

contain

want

mean

consist

need

understand

seem

prefer

believe

depend

agree

remember

matter

mind

recognise

see

own

appear

look (=seem)

sound

taste

smell

hear

astonish

deny

disagree

please

impress

satisfy

promise

surprise

doubt

think (=have an opinion)

feel (=have an opinion)

wish

imagine

concern

dislike

be

have

deserve

involve

include

lack

measure

(=have length etc)

possess

owe

weigh (=have weight)

Present perfect: simple or continuous??

- 1. _____ (they / arrive) already?
- 2. Lucy _____ (run) 2000 metres today.
- 3. I _____ (clean) all morning – I'm fed up!
- 4. How long _____ (you / know) Simon?
- 5. I _____ (drink) more water lately, and I feel better.

Present perfect: simple or continuous??

- 1. Have they arrived already?
- 2. Lucy has run 2000 metres today.
- 3. I've been cleaning all morning – I'm fed up!
- 4. How long have you known Simon?
- 5. I've been drinking more water lately, and I feel better.

Present perfect: simple or continuous??

- 6. Sorry about the mess! I _____ (bake).
- 7. How many times _____ (you / take) this exam?
- 8. He _____ (eat) six bars of chocolate today!
- 9. Julie _____ (cook) dinner. Let's go and eat!
- 10. The students _____ (finish) their exams. They're very happy.

Present perfect: simple or continuous??

- 6. Sorry about the mess! I've been baking.
- 7. How many times have you taken this exam?
- 8. He has eaten six bars of chocolate today!
- 9. Julie has cooked dinner. Let's go and eat!
- 10. The students have finished their exams. They're very happy.

Past perfect continuous

	I / you / we / they / he / she / it
Common expressions	after, as soon as, the moment that, until, before, when, by the time
Affirmative	had been playing
Negative	hadn't been playing
Interrogative	Had ___ been playing... ?

Uses

1. Something that started in the past and continued up to another action or event (tells us 'how long')

- She **had been working** at that company for a year when she met James. (This tells us how long something had continued before another event in the past. We usually use 'for' or 'since' in the same way as we do with the **present perfect continuous**)

Uses

2. Cause of something in the past

-The pavement was wet, it **had been raining**. (It was raining before the time I'm describing in the past. We could see the result of the rain)

Past perfect: simple or continuous??

- 1. When we arrived the film _____
(start).
- 2. She _____ (work) in that
company for twenty years when she was made redundant.
- 3. I felt ill because I _____
(drink) six cups of coffee.
- 4. I _____ (study) all day, so I
was tired.
- 5. How long _____ (you / live)
in London when your daughter was born?

Past perfect: simple or continuous??

- 1. When we arrived the film had started.
- 2. She had been working in that company for twenty years when she was made
- redundant.
- 3. I felt ill because I had drunk six cups of coffee.
- 4. I had been studying all day, so I was tired.
- 5. We had been living in London for two years when our daughter was born.

Past perfect: simple or continuous??

- 6. When I arrived at the airport I realised I _____ (forget) my passport.
- 7. I _____ (break) my ankle, so I couldn't go skiing last year.
- 8. She _____ (study) English for three years when she took the exam.
- 9. I _____ (run), so I was hot and tired.
- 10. I didn't go to the class because I _____ (not /do) my homework.

Past perfect: simple or continuous??

- 6. When I arrived at the airport I realised I had forgotten my passport.
- 7. I had broken my ankle, so I couldn't go skiing last year.
- 8. She had been studying English for three years when she took the exam.
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