

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?**
- Paul 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 **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 cafe. 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**.






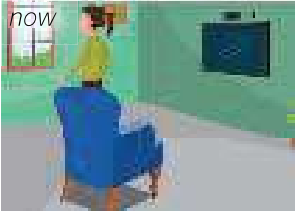


I have been doing
present perfect continuous

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

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

1	2	3	4
<i>earlier</i> 	<i>earlier</i> 	<i>earlier</i> 	<i>earlier</i> 
<i>now</i> 	<i>now</i> 	<i>now</i> 	<i>now</i> 
It's been raining.	She	They	He

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 late to meet Ben who is waiting for you. You say:
I'm sorry I'm late, Ben. (you / wait / long?)
- Jane'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 shop 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 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
- Our friends always go to Italy for their holidays. 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 Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, (he / work).'
- Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.
- It's dangerous to use your phone when (you / drive).
- Laura (travel) in South America for the last three months.