

# Present Perfect: Versus Present Perfect Continuous

**FORM:** HAVE/HAS + BEEN + VERB + ING

*I have been writing a letter for 2 hours.*

**USE and EXAMPLES:** Like **Present Perfect**, the **Present Perfect Continuous** is used for past events that somehow relate to the present. However, the two tenses are different.

## Present Perfect Continuous

- For a temporary condition that started in the past that will continue for a short time into the future.

*She **has been living** in Toronto for two years, but she will move to Vancouver next week.*

**BUT** *She **has lived** in Toronto for two years (and has no plans to move)*

- To emphasize that something is a repeated action, not a single one.

*I **have been going** to the gym regularly.*

**BUT** *I **have been** to the gym.*

Be careful: When we give a specific number of times an action occurred, we use the present perfect.

*I have been to the gym **three times** this week.*

- For a continuous action

*It **has been raining** all day!*

**BUT** *It **has rained** three times today.*

- For an incomplete action

*I **have been studying** for three hours and I am only half finished.*

**BUT** *I **have studied** for three hours now I am going to a movie. (I am finished.)*

- For a complete action, but the result of the action is still evident.

*I **have been cleaning** my apartment. (And I look a mess as a result).*

**REMEMBER** that some verbs (state verbs) can not be used in the continuous tenses.

Intermediate 3 – Exercise 17 – Present Perfect: Versus Present Perfect Continuous

*Choose either PRESENT PERFECT or PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS to fill in the blanks in the sentences below. More than one answer may be correct.*

1. She \_\_\_\_\_ (expect) a delivery of her new furniture. She is still waiting.
2. Mom \_\_\_\_\_ (be, just) to the supermarket for groceries.
3. Margo \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to reach you for two days! Please call her back as soon as possible.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ (watch) a television show about Africa. It is interesting.
5. For years, some people \_\_\_\_\_ (argue) that wine and chocolate are good for your health. Scientists agree with them.
6. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (learn) Spanish for three months. She is still a beginner.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Australia before?
8. He \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Florida for Christmas since he was five years old.
9. I \_\_\_\_\_ (be) Mexico three times. The last time was two years ago.
10. My family \_\_\_\_\_ (dream) of this vacation every day for the past month!
11. We \_\_\_\_\_ (be) ready to go for ten minutes.
12. Communication \_\_\_\_\_ (change) rapidly since the invention of the internet.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the latest figures on the economy?
14. The moving truck \_\_\_\_\_ (arrive). We can unload our furniture now.
15. They \_\_\_\_\_ (argue) continuously since the party started. They should just leave!
16. The radio \_\_\_\_\_ (announce, just) the election results.
17. I \_\_\_\_\_ (know) Susan since we were in kindergarten.
18. The Smith family \_\_\_\_\_ (build) their new house since last year. They will finish this summer.