

55 Present perfect continuous



1 Form

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	+ <i>been</i> + <i>-ing</i> verb	NEGATIVE	+ <i>been</i> + <i>-ing</i> verb
<i>I/We/You/They</i>	<i>have ('ve)</i>	<i>been waiting</i>	<i>have not (haven't)</i>	<i>been waiting.</i>
<i>He/She/It</i>	<i>has ('s)</i>		<i>has not (hasn't)</i>	

QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS
<i>Have</i>	<i>I/we/you/they</i>	<i>been waiting?</i>	<i>Yes, I/we/you/they have.</i> <i>No, I/we/you/they haven't.</i>
<i>Has</i>	<i>he/she/it</i>		<i>Yes, he/she/it has.</i> <i>No, he/she/it hasn't.</i>

We form the present perfect continuous with *have* + *been* + the *-ing* form of the verb.

2 Use

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about an action or situation that started in the past and is still happening now. We often use *for* and *since* with the present perfect continuous:

I've been waiting in this queue for three hours!

It is different from the present perfect because we usually use the continuous for a temporary action or situation, not for a situation that we think is permanent.

Compare:

present continuous → present perfect continuous (temporary)

I'm training for the race. I've been training for it for six months.

Are you waiting for the bus? Yes. I've been waiting for it for an hour/since three o'clock.

present simple → present perfect (permanent)

I live in Istanbul. I've lived there for twenty years.

'Do you know Alan?' 'Yes, I've known him all my life.'

We often use the present perfect continuous to explain a present situation:

'They look tired.' *'Well, they've been running for more than two hours.'*

'Your Spanish is good.' *'Thanks, I've been studying it for two years now.'*



X I live here for five months. ✓ I've been living here for five months.



Pronunciation ▶ 1.21