
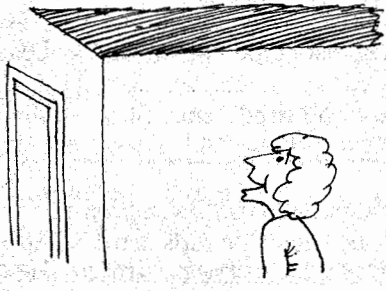


UNIT 17

Present perfect continuous (**I have been doing**) or present perfect simple (**I have done**)?

a) Study these example situations:

 <p>Ann's clothes are covered in paint. She has been painting the ceiling.</p> <p>Has been painting is the <i>present perfect continuous</i> tense.</p> <p>We are interested in the action. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not. In the example, the action has not been finished.</p>	 <p>The ceiling was white. Now it's blue. She has painted the ceiling.</p> <p>Has painted is the <i>present perfect simple</i> tense.</p> <p>This time, the important thing is that something has been finished. We are interested in the result of the action, not in the action itself.</p>
Here are some pairs of examples:	
Tom's hands are very dirty. He has been repairing the car. You've been smoking too much recently. You should smoke less.	The car is going again now. Tom has repaired it. Somebody has smoked all my cigarettes. The packet is empty.

<p>We use the <i>continuous</i> form to say how long something has been happening:</p> <p>Ann has been writing letters all day.</p> <p>How long have you been reading that book?</p> <p>Jim has been playing tennis since 2 o'clock.</p>	<p>We use the <i>simple</i> form to say how much we have done, how many things we have done, or how many times we have done something:</p> <p>Ann has written ten letters today.</p> <p>How many pages of that book have you read?</p> <p>Jim has played tennis three times this week.</p>
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See Unit 18 for more information about the present perfect and **how long**?

c) Some verbs are not used in the continuous form, for example **know**. You have to say **have known** (not 'have been knowing'). For a list of these verbs see Unit 3b.

UNIT 17 Exercises

17.1 In this exercise you have to read the situation and then write two sentences, one with the present perfect simple (I have done) and one with the present perfect continuous (I have been doing).

Example: Tom is reading a book. He started two hours ago and he is on page 53.

(he / read / for two hours) He has been reading for two hours.

(he / read / 53 pages so far) He has read 53 pages so far.

1 Linda is from Australia. Now she is travelling round Europe. She began her tour three months ago.

(she / travel / around Europe for three months)

(she / visit / six countries so far)

2 Jimmy is a tennis champion. He began playing tennis when he was 11 years old. Now he has just won the national championship for the fourth time.

(he / play / tennis since he was 11)

(he / win / the national championship four times)

3 Bill and Andy make films. They started making films together when they left college.

(they / make / films since they left college)

(they / make / ten films since they left college)

17.2 This time you have to imagine that you are talking to a friend. Read the situation and ask a question beginning in the way shown.

Example: Your friend is learning Arabic. How long have you been learning Arabic?

1 Your friend is waiting for you. How long

2 Your friend writes books. How many books

3 Your friend writes books. How long

4 Your friend plays football for his country. How many times

17.3 In this exercise you have to put the verb into the correct form, present perfect simple (I have done) or continuous (I have been doing).

Examples: I have lost (lost) my key. Can you help me look for it?

You look tired. Have you been working (you/work) hard?

1 Look! Somebody (break) that window.

2 I (read) the book you gave me but I
..... (not/finish) it yet.

3 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. I (not/wait) long.'

4 Hello! I (clean) the windows. So far I

..... (clean) five of them and there are two more to do.

5 There's a strange smell in here. (you/cook) something?

6 My brother is an actor. He (appear) in several films.