



Unit 7 – Present Perfect Continuous (*I have been doing..*)

The Present Perfect Continuous expresses continuing actions (*started in the past and will continue*).

-> There are two basic time frames:

- i) shorter -> within a day
- ii) longer -> days, weeks, months, years

Note: -> Both the Present Perfect (PP) & Present Perfect Continuous (PPC) express short and long time frames.

A) Short Time Frames – **finished actions** (PP) vs. **continuing actions** (PPC):

	Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
Pattern:	have/has + p.p. (past participle)	have/has + been + verb(<i>ing</i>)
Purpose:	- shows a finished action - does not show when it happened	- shows a continuing action (<i>started in the past + will continue</i>)
Time Expressions:	Time expressions are not necessary but do help emphasize by providing details: -> <i>already / yet / still / ever / never</i>	The following time expressions are necessary with the PPC form: -> <i>for / since / ever since / all</i>
Examples:	1) I have done the dishes. (<i>I have finished them</i>) 2) Mike has already done the presentation. (<i>Mike finished the presentation</i>) -> In both examples, we don't know when the actions were completed.	1) I have been doing the dishes for ten minutes. 2) Mike has been working on the presentation for an hour. -> We know that the actions are not complete and will continue.

B) Long Time Frames – actions that **may continue** (PP) vs. actions that **will continue** (PPC):

	Present Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous
Pattern:	have/has + p.p. (past participle)	have/has + been + verb(<i>ing</i>)
Purpose:	- shows an action that started in the past and may continue	- shows an action that started in the past and will continue
Time Expressions:	Use the following time expressions: -> <i>for / since / ever since / all</i>	Use the following time expressions: -> <i>for / since / ever since / all</i>
Examples:	1) I have lived here for five years. 2) Mary has played the flute since she was 12. 3) He has listened to music since 9:00am.	1) I have been living here for five years. 2) Mary has been playing the flute since she was 12. 3) He has been listening to music since 9:00am.

C) Stative (Non-Action) Verbs – E.g.: *love, be, etc.* are **never** used in the PPC form (*loving, being, etc.*):

- I **have been having** this car for six years. (x) -> I **have had** this car for six years. (*correct*)
- He **has been being** here for an hour. (x) -> He **has been** here for an hour. (*correct*)

D) Time Expressions – duration (*for, all, since, ever since*) -> Note the differences:

- She has been playing the piano **for** 25 years. -> **for** shows a *specific* period of time
- She has been playing the piano **all** her life. -> **all** shows a *complete* period of time (**all** week)
- He has been singing **since** he was five. -> **since** shows a *specific* starting point
- He has been singing **ever since** he was young. -> **ever since** shows a *general* starting point



Unit 7 – Exercises:

7.1 – Choose the correct verb for each sentence. Use the present perfect continuous form.

- Colin **has been feeling** sick all day. He is planning to see the doctor tomorrow morning.
- Brian _____ for a job for two months. He really hopes to be working soon.
- My legs are getting tired. I _____ all day long!
- It's Black Friday and the Smith family _____ since 6am this morning!
- Mr. Jones _____ at the school for 20 years! He'll retire this year.
- Fred loves classic cars. He _____ that 1965 Mustang since 1995!
- Tina is absolutely exhausted. She _____ on this project for six weeks!
- I would take your umbrella and coat if I were you. It _____ all day.

feel
drive
search
rain
teach
work
stand
shop

7.2 – Write sentences using the present perfect continuous based on the information provided.

- The Johnson family is driving to see their relatives. They started driving three hours ago.
The Johnson family has been driving for three hours.

2. We are taking our final exam. The exam started at 9:00am this morning.

3. My neighbor is painting my kitchen. He began painting four hours ago.

4. Joe and Sam started backpacking last month. They are backpacking through France.

5. Andrew started working at the head office in January. He still works at the head office now.

6. Jessica is studying in her room. She started studying two hours ago.

7.3 – Use the correct question word (*who, what, when, where, why, how..*) to write questions using the present perfect continuous. Be sure to focus on the underlined words.

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|---|---|
| 1. Steve has been playing golf <u>for 20 years</u> . | 1. How long has Steve been playing golf? |
| 2. Shannon has been practicing <u>in her room</u> all month. | 2. _____? |
| 3. Randy has been talking <u>to his cousin</u> on Skype! | 3. _____? |
| 4. He has been running <u>because he's going to do a marathon</u> . | 4. _____? |
| 5. Danielle has been waiting <u>at the café</u> for Brian. | 5. _____? |
| 6. The class has been <u>playing dodgeball</u> in the gym. | 6. _____? |

7.4 – Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verb in brackets (*either the PP or PPC form*).

- It _____ (snow) since 3am with no signs of stopping!
- Me:** Where's Anna? **Paul:** She _____ (be) stuck in traffic for over an hour.
- Please answer the door. Someone _____ (ring) the doorbell for awhile.
- I _____ (watch) the news all day but nothing interesting _____ (happen) yet.
- Tom is at the basketball court. He _____ (wait) for Chris for over 30 minutes.
- The girls are in the field. They _____ (look) for a four-leaf clover all day. They _____ (not found) one so far, however.
- Is Terry okay? He _____ (seem) really nervous all day.
- They _____ (build) that bridge for two years. It _____ (cost) \$10,000,000 so far.
- Mom and Kara _____ (shop) all day. They _____ (buy) a lot!
- That's my favorite restaurant by the way. I _____ (be) there several times!