

VERBS, PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The **present perfect continuous** is used to indicate that the **actions or events happened in the past and might be continuing in the present**. Present perfect continuous is formed with “**have been**” or “**has been**” plus a **present participle**. The present participle is the main verb plus the suffix **-ing**.

Present Perfect Simple

He has helped find a solution.

I have seen his potential.

We have gone to school.

She has studied English.

Present Perfect Continuous

He **has been helping** find a solution.

I **have been seeing** his potential.

We **have been going** to school.

She **has been studying** English.

Comparing **the present perfect simple** with **the present perfect continuous**:

1. **The present perfect simple is used to talk about an activity that in the past that might or might not continue in the present.**

I have prepared dinner. Let's eat! (completed action)

I have visited this city once before. (completed action that might continue)

We have played tennis since fifth grade. (completed action that might continue)

Tourists have flocked to this resort every winter. (completed action that might continue)

2. **The present perfect continuous is used to talk about a continuing activity in the past that in the past that might or might not continue in the present.**

I have been working all night. (continuing action started in the past)

Our parents have been teaching us to play fair. (continuing action started in the past)

We have been working on this project since July. (continuing action started in the past)

She has been calling him all day. (continuing action started in the recent past)

Practice1: Complete the sentence in present perfect continuous with the verb given in the parentheses.

1. She _____ all day. (paint)
2. I _____ for this opportunity. (wait)
3. Education _____ my future. (shape)

4. They _____ football since they were 6-year-old. (play)
5. She _____ for dinner. (go)
6. He _____ too much all month long. (eat)
7. Everyone _____ for her attention. (vie)
8. I _____ good feelings when he is around. (have)
9. He _____ his parents over for dinner every week. (have)
10. I _____ myself. (be)
11. He _____ his beard weekly. (trim)
12. The inhabitants _____ for the truth for generations.
13. Traveling expenses _____ into his earnings. (cut)
14. He _____ a big profit. (net)
15. She _____ more friendly. (become)
16. They _____ for you (look)
17. Uncle Bill _____ on his reserved energies. (tap)
18. She _____ the way he_____. (approve, behave)
19. The bees _____ by the thousands. (die)
20. They _____ all their lives. (fight)

Answers1:

1. She has been painting all day.
2. I have been waiting for this opportunity.
3. Education has been shaping my future.
4. They have been playing football since they were 6-year-old.
5. She has been going out for dinner.
6. He has been eating too much all month long.
7. Everyone has been vying for her attention.
8. I have been having good feelings when he is around.
9. He has been having his parents over for dinner every week.
10. I have been being myself.
11. He has been trimming his beard weekly.
12. The inhabitants have been searching for the truth for generation.
13. Traveling expenses have been cutting into his earnings.
14. He has been netting a big profit.
15. She has been becoming more friendly.
16. They have been looking for you.
17. Uncle Bill has been tapping on his reserved energies.
18. She has been approving the way he has been behaving.
19. The bees have been dying by the thousands.
20. They have been fighting all their lives.

“I have” is often abbreviated as “I’ve” and “He has” is often shorten as “He’s”

Answers1: (with abbreviations)

1. She’s been painting all day.
2. I’ve been waiting for this opportunity.
3. Education has been shaping my future.
4. They’ve been playing football since they were 6-year-old.
5. She’s been going out for dinner.
6. He’s been eating too much all month long.
7. Everyone has been vying for her attention.
8. I’ve been having good feelings when he is around.
9. He’s been having his parents over for dinner every week.
10. I’ve been being myself.
11. He’s been trimming his beard weekly.
12. The inhabitants have been searching for the truth for generation.
13. Traveling expenses have been cutting into his earnings.
14. He’s been netting a big profit.
15. She’s been becoming more friendly.
16. They’ve been looking for you.
17. Uncle Bill has been tapping on his reserved energies.
18. She’s been approving the way he has been behaving.
19. The bees have been dying by the thousands.
20. They have been fighting all their lives.

For negative statement in the present perfect continuous, “not” is added after “have” or “has.”

I **have been** looking -> I **have not been** looking.

They **have been having** second thought -> They **have not been** having second thought.

We **have been losing** our confidence -> We **have not been losing** our confidence.

“have not” is often abbreviated as “haven’t” and “has not” is often shorten as “hasn’t”

I **haven’t been** looking.

He **hasn’t been** feeling well lately.

They **haven’t been** having second thought.

For questions with the present perfect continuous, the verb “have” and subject switch position.

Tom **has been doing** homework -> **Has** Tom **been doing** homework?

I **have been making** good on my promise -> **Have** I **been making** good on my promise?

She **has been working** on her project -> **Has** she **been working** on her project?

We **have been having** a great time -> **Have** we **been having** a great time?

They **have been exhibiting** their works -> **Have** they **been exhibiting** their works?

The dog **has been barking** -> **Has** the dog **been barking**?