

UNIT 29 Present perfect continuous (*I've been learning, Have you been learning?*) Form and usage.

The present perfect continuous is used to express prolonged actions that started in the past and are either still going on in the present or have just been concluded.

This verb tense is formed with the present perfect of **be** and the **-ing** form of the main verb.

Subject + **have / has been** + verb in the **-ing** form

A

Affirmative

I / You / We / They	have ('ve) been	practising all day.
He / She / It	has ('s) been	

I've been running for half an hour.
(and I'm still running)
She has been cooking all afternoon.
(she's just finished)

B

Negative

I / You / We / They	have not (haven't) been	practising all day.
He / She / It	has not (hasn't) been	

Full negative form: Subject + **have / has not been** + verb in the **-ing** form

Short negative form: Subject + **haven't / hasn't been** + verb in the **-ing** form

I haven't been waiting for very long.
She hasn't been studying French long.

C

Interrogative

Have	I / you / we / they	been	practising all day?
Has	he / she / it		

Interrogative form: **Have / Has** + subject + **been** + verb in the **-ing** form

Short answers: **Yes, / No,** + subject pronoun + **have / has / haven't / hasn't.**

'Have you been painting the kitchen?' 'No, I haven't. I've been painting the bathroom.'
'Has she been waiting for you all this time?' 'Yes, she has. She's been very patient.'

D

The **present perfect continuous** is used to:

- say what we were doing up until the moment of speaking. The action can either still be going on or just have ended, but with signs still evident in the present.

'You're soaking wet!' 'Yes. I've been walking in the rain all the way from school.'

- highlight the amount of time a prolonged action has been going on for. In this case, we use expression like **all day / all day long, all night, all week**, etc.

I've been calling people on the phone all day. This is really hard work!

Student's notes
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EXERCISES

Present perfect continuous – Form and usage **UNIT 29**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: -

29.1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence and correct the sentences with mistakes in them.

- 1 Miss Williams has been teaching all day.
- 2 I have been studied maths today.
- 3 You has been listening to a lecture about science.
- 4 Susan has doing her homework all evening.
- 5 David and Jackie have been trying to work.
- 6 He has been filling in his university application form.
- 7 The girls are been playing netball in the playground.
- 8 Tina has been take part in some extra drama classes.

29.2 Complete the sentences with the present perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Mr Jones at the same college for years. (work)
- 2 No, we our exam timetable. (not look at)
- 3 I for you for long. (not wait)
- 4 It feels like this lesson for ever! (go on)
- 5 Shelly a new school bag. (choose)
- 6 This year, my sons the history of art. (not study)
- 7 Gina about what the professor said. (think)
- 8 They the classrooms this month. (decorate)

29.3 Write questions in the present perfect continuous. Then complete the short answers.

- 1 you / read / your new chemistry book
..... No,
- 2 the headteacher / prepare / the new timetable
..... No,
- 3 your English teacher / mark / the exams
..... No,
- 4 Simon / have / a PE lesson
..... No,
- 5 your mum / attend / pottery class at night school
..... Yes,
- 6 the children / write / on the board
..... No,

29.4 Use the words given to write sentences in the present perfect continuous.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 write / notes / from a history book
.....
..... | 4 learn / drive / a very long time
.....
..... |
| 2 listen to / CDs / from a French course
.....
..... | 5 play / in a rock band / since they were at college.
.....
..... |
| 3 read / essay / by children in her class
.....
..... | 6 have / swimming lessons / all morning
.....
..... |

Teacher's observations