

# PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

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# FORM

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- We use have/has + been + the -ing form of the verb.
- She has been working
- Have you been working?

# USES

## I – RECENT PAST ACTIVITIES)

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We use the present perfect continuous to talk about a finished activity in the recent past. Using the present perfect continuous focuses on the activity.

**We don't give a specific time.** Even though the activity is finished, we can see the result in the present:

- I've just been cleaning the car. (The car is wet and clean.)
- It's been snowing. (The ground is covered in snow.)
- What have you been buying?



# USES

## II – ONE CONTINUING EVENT

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We use the present perfect continuous for a single activity that began at a point in the past and is still continuing:

- I've been reading your book – it's great. (I'm still reading it.)
- He's been living in the village since 1995. (He is still living in the village.)
- She has been writing her autobiography since 1987.

# USES

## III – REPEATED CONTINUING EVENTS

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- We use the present perfect continuous to talk about repeated activities which started at a particular time in the past and are still continuing up until now:
- I've been going to Spain on holiday every year since 1987.
- I haven't been eating much lunch lately. I've been going to the gym at lunchtimes.
- She's been playing tennis on and off for three years.



# USES

## IV – HOW LONG...?

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- We often use the present perfect continuous to ask and answer questions about the duration of an activity. We use the question How long ...+ present perfect continuous:
- A: How long have you been waiting for me?
- B: About ten minutes. Not too long. (I've been waiting for about ten minutes.)