



US vs UK Grammar

- Phrases such as *It's the first/second/etc time ...* are followed by the present perfect simple.
✓ *It's the second time I've been on a plane.*
- Speakers of American English often use the past simple in situations where speakers of British English would use the present perfect simple.
US: *We already saw the Sphinx.*
UK: *We've already seen the Sphinx.*
- Speakers of American English use *gotten* as the past participle of the verb 'get', except when 'get' means 'have' or 'possess'. Speakers of British English only ever use *got*.
US: *We've already gotten Dan a new backpack for his summer vacation.*
UK: *We've already got Dan a new rucksack for his summer holiday.*

Present perfect continuous

Form	statement:	I/you/we/they have been travelling ...	He/she/it has been travelling ...
	negative:	I/you/we/they haven't been travelling ...	He/she/it hasn't been travelling ...
	question:	Have I/you/we/they been travelling ...?	Has he/she/it been travelling ...?

Use	Example
Actions continuing up to the present moment	<i>We have been driving for hours. Can't we have a break soon?</i>
Actions stopping just before the present moment	<i>I'm out of breath because I've been running to get here in time.</i>



- The present perfect continuous is often used with words and phrases like *all day/week/year/etc, for, since, just, etc.*
✓ *We've been walking for hours and I need a rest.*
- The present perfect continuous is **not** normally used with the words *ever* and *never*.
✓ ***Have** you **ever flown** in a helicopter before?*
X ~~***Have** you **ever been flying** in a helicopter before?*~~
- Sometimes there is very little difference in meaning between the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous and sometimes there is a difference in meaning.
✓ *I **have worked** at the airport for four years. = I **have been working** at the airport for four years.*
✓ *I **have read** that book about cruise ships. (I have finished it.) I **have been reading** that book about cruise ships. (I have not finished it.)*

Stative verbs

Stative verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses because they don't describe actions. ✓ <i>I see what you mean.</i> X <i>I am seeing what you mean.</i>	
Use	Example
Stative verbs often refer to:	
thinking	<i>believe, imagine, know, mean, think, understand</i>
existence	<i>be, exist</i>
emotions	<i>hate, like, love, need, prefer, satisfy, want</i>
the human senses	<i>hear, see, smell, sound, taste</i>
appearance	<i>appear, look, resemble, seem</i>
possession and relationships between things	<i>belong to, consist of, have, include, involve, own</i>



- Some verbs (such as *be, have, imagine, look, see, smell, taste, think*) are stative with one meaning and non-stative with another meaning.
✓ ***Do** you **have** your plane ticket with you? (state: possession)*
✓ ***Are** you **having** lunch at the moment? (action: eating)*