

Present continuous (I am doing)

A

Study this example situation:

Sarah is in her car. She is on her way to work.

She **is driving** to work.

This means: she is driving *now*, at the time of speaking.
The action is not finished.



Am/is/are + -ing is the *present continuous*:

I	am	(= I'm)	driving
he/she/it	is	(= he's etc.)	working
we/you/they	are	(= we're etc.)	doing etc.

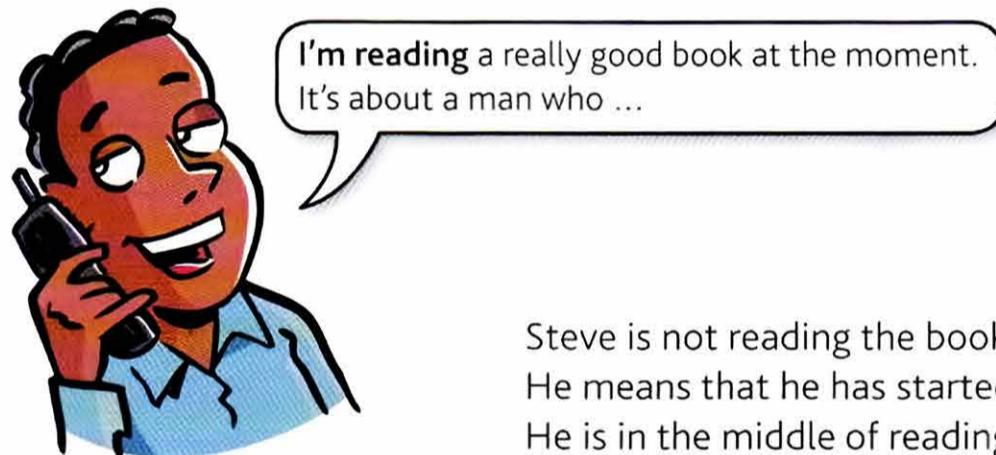
B

I am doing something = I'm in the middle of doing it; I've started doing it and I haven't finished:

- Please don't make so much noise. **I'm trying** to work. (*not I try*)
- 'Where's Mark?' 'He's **having** a shower.' (*not He has a shower*)
- Let's go out now. It **isn't raining** any more. (*not It doesn't rain*)
- (*at a party*) Hi, Jane. **Are you enjoying** the party? (*not Do you enjoy*)
- What's all that noise? **What's going on?** (= What's happening?)

Sometimes the action is not happening at the time of speaking. For example:

Steve is talking to a friend on the phone. He says:



Steve is not reading the book at the time of speaking.
He means that he has started it, but has not finished it yet.
He is in the middle of reading it.

Some more examples:

- Kate wants to work in Italy, so **she's learning** Italian. (*but perhaps she isn't learning Italian at the time of speaking*)
- Some friends of mine **are building** their own house. They hope to finish it next summer.

C

You can use the present continuous with **today / this week / this year** etc. (periods around now):

- A: You're **working hard today**. (*not You work hard today*)
- B: Yes, I have a lot to do.
- The company I work for **isn't doing** so well **this year**.

D

We use the present continuous when we talk about changes happening around now, especially with these verbs:

get change become increase rise fall grow improve begin start

- Is your English **getting** better? (*not Does your English get better*)
- The population of the world **is increasing** very fast. (*not increases*)
- At first I didn't like my job, but I'm **beginning** to enjoy it now. (*not I begin*)

Exercises

1.1 The sentences on the right follow those on the left. Which sentence goes with which?

- 1 Please don't make so much noise.
- 2 I need to eat something soon.
- 3 I don't have anywhere to live right now.
- 4 We need to leave soon.
- 5 They don't need their car any more.
- 6 Things are not so good at work.
- 7 It isn't true what they said.
- 8 We're going to get wet.

- a It's getting late.
- b They're lying.
- c It's starting to rain.
- d They're trying to sell it.
- e I'm getting hungry.
- f ~~I'm trying to work.~~
- g I'm looking for an apartment.
- h The company is losing money.

1 f
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

1.2 Complete the conversations.

- 1 A: I saw Brian a few days ago.
 B: Oh, did you? What's he doing these days? (what / he / do)
 A: He's at university.
 B: ? (what / he / study)
 A: Psychology.
 B: it? (he / enjoy)
 A: Yes, he says it's a very good course.

- 2 A: Hi, Nicola. How ? (your new job / go)
 B: Not bad. It wasn't so good at first, but better now.
 (it / get)
 A: What about Daniel? Is he OK?
 B: Yes, but his work right now. (he / not / enjoy)
 He's been in the same job for a long time and to get bored
 with it. (he / begin)

1.3 Put the verb into the correct form, positive (**I'm doing** etc.) or negative (**I'm not doing** etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I'm trying (I / try) to work.
- 2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining (it / rain) any more.
- 3 You can turn off the radio. (I / listen) to it.
- 4 Kate phoned me last night. She's on holiday in France. (she / have) a great time and doesn't want to come back.
- 5 I want to lose weight, so this week (I / eat) lunch.
- 6 Andrew has just started evening classes. (he / learn) Japanese.
- 7 Paul and Sally have had an argument. (they / speak) to each other.
- 8 (I / get) tired. I need a rest.
- 9 Tim (work) today. He's taken the day off.
- 10 (I / look) for Sophie. Do you know where she is?

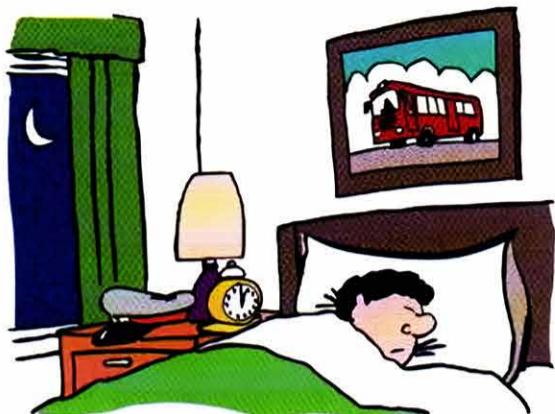
1.4 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

start get increase change rise

- 1 The population of the world is increasing very fast.
- 2 The world Things never stay the same.
- 3 The situation is already bad and it worse.
- 4 The cost of living Every year things are more expensive.
- 5 The weather to improve. The rain has stopped, and the wind isn't as strong.

Present simple (I do)

Study this example situation:



Alex is a bus driver, but now he is in bed asleep.

He is not driving a bus. (He is asleep.)

but He **drives** a bus. (He is a bus driver.)Drive(s)/work(s)/do(es) etc. is the *present simple*:I/we/you/they **drive/work/do** etc.he/she/it **drives/works/does** etc.

B

We use the present simple to talk about things in general. We use it to say that something happens all the time or repeatedly, or that something is true in general:

- Nurses **look** after patients in hospitals.
- I usually **go** away at weekends.
- The earth **goes** round the sun.
- The cafe **opens** at 7.30 in the morning.

Remember:

I **work** ... *but* He **works** ... They **teach** ... *but* My sister **teaches** ...

For spelling (-s or -es), see Appendix 6.

C

We use **do/does** to make questions and negative sentences:

do	I/we/you/they	work?	I/we/you/they	don't	work
does	he/she/it	drive? do?	he/she/it	doesn't	drive do

- I come from Canada. Where **do** you **come** from?
- I **don't go** away very often.
- What **does** this word **mean**? (*not* What means this word?)
- Rice **doesn't grow** in cold climates.

In the following examples, **do** is also the main verb (do you **do** / doesn't **do** etc.):

- 'What **do** you **do**?' 'I work in a shop.'
- He's always so lazy. He **doesn't do** anything to help.

D

We use the present simple to say how often we do things:

- I **get** up at 8 o'clock **every morning**.
- How often** do you **go** to the dentist?
- Julie **doesn't drink** tea **very often**.
- Robert usually **goes** away **two or three times a year**.

E

I **promise** / I **apologise** etc.Sometimes we do things by saying something. For example, when you *promise* to do something, you can say '**I promise** ...'; when you *suggest* something, you can say '**I suggest** ...':

- I **promise** I won't be late. (*not* I'm promising)
- 'What do you **suggest** I do?' 'I **suggest** that you ...'

In the same way we say: I **apologise** ... / I **advise** ... / I **insist** ... / I **agree** ... / I **refuse** ... etc.

Exercises

2.1 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

cause(s) connect(s) drink(s) live(s) open(s) speak(s) take(s)

- 1 Tanya ... speaks ... German very well.
- 2 I don't often coffee.
- 3 The swimming pool at 7.30 every morning.
- 4 Bad driving many accidents.
- 5 My parents in a very small flat.
- 6 The Olympic Games place every four years.
- 7 The Panama Canal the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

2.2 Put the verb into the correct form.

- 1 Julie ... doesn't drink ... (not / drink) tea very often.
- 2 What time (the banks / close) here?
- 3 I've got a car, but I (not / use) it much.
- 4 'Where (Ricardo / come) from?' 'From Cuba.'
- 5 'What (you / do)?' 'I'm an electrician.'
- 6 It (take) me an hour to get to work. How long (it / take) you?
- 7 Look at this sentence. What (this word / mean)?
- 8 David isn't very fit. He (not / do) any sport.

2.3 Use the following verbs to complete the sentences. Sometimes you need the negative:

believe eat flow go grow make rise tell translate

- 1 The earth ... goes ... round the sun.
- 2 Rice ... doesn't grow ... in Britain.
- 3 The sun in the east.
- 4 Bees honey.
- 5 Vegetarians meat.
- 6 An atheist in God.
- 7 An interpreter from one language into another.
- 8 Liars are people who the truth.
- 9 The River Amazon into the Atlantic Ocean.

2.4 You ask Lisa questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

- 1 You know that Lisa plays tennis. You want to know how often. Ask her.
How often ... do you play tennis ... ?
- 2 Perhaps Lisa's sister plays tennis too. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... your sister ?
- 3 You know that Lisa reads a newspaper every day. You want to know which one. Ask her.
..... ?
- 4 You know that Lisa's brother works. You want to know what he does. Ask Lisa.
..... ?
- 5 You know that Lisa goes to the cinema a lot. You want to know how often. Ask her.
..... ?
- 6 You don't know where Lisa's grandparents live. You want to know. Ask Lisa.
..... ?

2.5 Complete using the following:

I apologise I insist I promise I recommend I suggest

- 1 Mr Evans is not in the office today. ... I suggest ... you try calling him tomorrow.
- 2 I won't tell anybody what you said.
- 3 (in a restaurant) You must let me pay for the meal.
- 4 for what I did. It won't happen again.
- 5 The new restaurant in Hill Street is very good. it.

Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)

A Compare:

Present continuous (I am doing)

We use the continuous for things happening at or around the time of speaking. The action is not complete.

I am doing		
past	now	future
<input type="checkbox"/> The water is boiling . Can you turn it off?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Listen to those people. What language are they speaking?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Let's go out. It isn't raining now.		
<input type="checkbox"/> 'I'm busy.' 'What are you doing? '		
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm getting hungry. Let's go and eat.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The population of the world is increasing very fast.		

We use the continuous for *temporary* situations:

- I'm living** with some friends until I find a place of my own.
- A: You're **working** hard today.
B: Yes, I have a lot to do.

See Unit 1 for more information.

Present simple (I do)

We use the simple for things in general or things that happen repeatedly.

I do		
past	now	future
<input type="checkbox"/> Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Excuse me, do you speak English?		
<input type="checkbox"/> It doesn't rain very much in summer.		
<input type="checkbox"/> What do you usually do at weekends?		
<input type="checkbox"/> I always get hungry in the afternoon.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Most people learn to swim when they are children.		
<input type="checkbox"/> Every day the population of the world increases by about 200,000 people.		

We use the simple for *permanent* situations:

- My parents **live** in London. They have lived there all their lives.
- Joe isn't lazy. He **works** hard most of the time.

See Unit 2 for more information.

B I always do and I'm always doing

I always do (something) = I do it every time:

- I **always go** to work by car. (*not* I'm always going)

'I'm always doing something' has a different meaning. For example:



I'm always losing things = I lose things very often, perhaps too often, or more often than normal.

More examples:

- You're **always playing** computer games. You should do something more active.
(= You play computer games too often)
- Tim is never satisfied. He's **always complaining**. (= He complains too much)

Exercises

3.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
 - 2 The water boils. Can you turn it off?
 - 3 Look! That man tries to open the door of your car.
 - 4 Can you hear those people? What do they talk about?
 - 5 The moon goes round the earth in about 27 days.
 - 6 I must go now. It gets late.
 - 7 I usually go to work by car.
 - 8 'Hurry up! It's time to leave.' 'OK, I come.'
 - 9 I hear you've got a new job. How do you get on?
 - 10 Paul is never late. He's always getting to work on time.
 - 11 They don't get on well. They're always arguing.

OK
is boiling

3.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Let's go out. It isn't raining (it / not / rain) now.

2 Julia is very good at languages. She speaks (she / speak) four languages very well.

3 Hurry up! (everybody / wait) for you.

4 ' (you / listen) to the radio?' 'No, you can turn it off.'

5 ' (you / listen) to the radio every day?' 'No, just occasionally.'

6 The River Nile (flow) into the Mediterranean.

7 The river (flow) very fast today – much faster than usual.

8 (we / usually / grow) vegetables in our garden, but this year
(we / not / grow) any.

9 A: How's your English?
B: Not bad. I think (it / improve) slowly.

10 Rachel is in New York right now. (she / stay) at the Park Hotel.
(she / always / stay) there when she's in New York.

11 Can we stop walking soon? (I / start) to feel tired.

12 A: Can you drive?
B: (I / learn). My father (teach) me.

13 Normally (I / finish) work at five, but this week
(I / work) until six to earn a little more money.

14 My parents (live) in Manchester. They were born there and have never
lived anywhere else. Where (your parents / live)?

15 Sonia (look) for a place to live. (she / stay)
with her sister until she finds somewhere.

16 A: What (your brother / do)?
B: He's an architect, but (he / not / work) at the moment.

17 (at a party) (I / usually enjoy) parties, but
(I / not / enjoy) this one very much.

3.3 Finish B's sentences. Use **always** -ing.

- 1 A: I've lost my phone again.
B: Not again! You're always losing your phone
 - 2 A: The car has broken down again.
B: That car is useless. It
 - 3 A: Look! You've made the same mistake again.
B: Oh no, not again! I
 - 4 A: Oh, I've forgotten my glasses again.
B: Typical!

Present continuous and present simple 2 (I am doing and I do)

A

We use continuous forms for actions and happenings that have started but not finished (they **are eating** / it **is raining** etc.). Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in this way. We don't say 'I am knowing' or 'they are liking'; we say 'I **know**', 'they **like**'.

The following verbs are not normally used in the present continuous:

like	want	need	prefer			
know	realise	suppose	mean	understand	believe	remember
belong	fit	contain	consist	seem		

- I'm hungry. I **want** something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- Do you understand** what I **mean**?
- Anna **doesn't seem** very happy at the moment.

B

Think

When **think** means 'believe' or 'have an opinion', we do not use the continuous:

- I **think** Mary is Canadian, but I'm not sure. (*not* I'm thinking)
- What **do you think** of my plan? (= What is your opinion?)

When **think** means 'consider', the continuous is possible:

- I'm **thinking** about what happened. I often **think** about it.
- Nicky **is thinking** of giving up her job. (= she is considering it)

C

See hear smell taste

We normally use the present simple (not continuous) with these verbs:

- Do you see** that man over there? (*not* Are you seeing)
- This room **smells**. Let's open a window.

We often use **can + see/hear/smell/taste**:

- I **can hear** a strange noise. **Can** you **hear** it?

D

Look feel

You can use the present simple or continuous to say how somebody looks or feels now:

- You **look** well today. *or* You're **looking** well today.
- How **do you feel** now? *or* How **are you feeling** now?

but

- I usually **feel** tired in the morning. (*not* I'm usually feeling)

E

He is selfish and He is being selfish

He's being = He's behaving / He's acting. Compare:

- I can't understand why **he's being** so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
(**being** selfish = behaving selfishly at the moment)
- He never thinks about other people. He **is** very selfish. (*not* He is being)
(= He is selfish generally, not only at the moment)

We use **am/is/are being** to say how somebody is *behaving*. It is not usually possible in other sentences:

- It's hot today. (*not* It is being hot)
- Sarah **is** very tired. (*not* is being tired)

Exercises

4.1 Put the verb into the correct form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 Are you hungry? ... Do you want ... (you / want) something to eat?
- 2 Don't put the dictionary away. (I / use) it.
- 3 Don't put the dictionary away. (I / need) it.
- 4 Who is that man? What (he / want)?
- 5 Who is that man? Why (he / look) at us?
- 6 Alan says he's 80 years old, but nobody (believe) him.
- 7 She told me her name, but (I / not / remember) it now.
- 8 (I / think) of selling my car. Would you be interested in buying it?
- 9 (I / think) you should sell your car. (you / not / use) it very often.
- 10 Air (consist) mainly of nitrogen and oxygen.

4.2 Use the words in brackets to make sentences. (You should also study Unit 3 before you do this exercise.)

1 (you / not / seem / very happy today)
You don't seem very happy today.

2 (what / you / do?)
Be quiet! (I / think)

3 (who / this umbrella / belong to?)
I have no idea.

4 (the dinner / smell / good)

5 Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?)
No, it's free.

6 (these gloves / not / fit / me)
They're too small.

4.3 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Nicky is thinking of giving up her job. OK
- 2 Are you believing in God?
- 3 I'm feeling hungry. Is there anything to eat?
- 4 This sauce is great. It's tasting really good.
- 5 I'm thinking this is your key. Am I right?

4.4 Complete the sentences using the most suitable form of **be**. Use **am/is/are being** (continuous) where possible; otherwise use **am/is/are** (simple).

- 1 I can't understand why ... he's being so selfish. He isn't usually like that.
- 2 Sarah very nice to me at the moment. I wonder why.
- 3 You'll like Sophie when you meet her. She very nice.
- 4 You're usually very patient, so why so unreasonable about waiting ten more minutes?
- 5 Why isn't Steve at work today? ill?

Past simple (I did)

A

Study this example:

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart **was** an Austrian musician and composer. He **lived** from 1756 to 1791. He **started** composing at the age of five and **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music. He **was** only 35 years old when he **died**.

Lived/started/wrote/was/died are all *past simple*.



B

Very often the past simple ends in **-ed** (*regular verbs*):

- I work in a travel agency now. Before that I **worked** in a department store.
- We **invited** them to our party, but they **decided** not to come.
- The police **stopped** me on my way home last night.
- Laura **passed** her exam because she **studied** very hard.

For spelling (stopped, studied etc.), see Appendix 6.

But many verbs are *irregular*. The past simple does *not* end in **-ed**. For example:

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| write → wrote | <input type="checkbox"/> Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music. |
| see → saw | <input type="checkbox"/> We saw Tanya in town a few days ago. |
| go → went | <input type="checkbox"/> I went to the cinema three times last week. |
| shut → shut | <input type="checkbox"/> It was cold, so I shut the window. |

C

In questions and negatives we use **did/didn't + infinitive** (**enjoy/see/go** etc.):

I	enjoyed	did	you	enjoy?	I	enjoy
she	saw		she	see?	she	see
they	went		they	go?	they	go

- A: **Did** you **go** out last night?
B: Yes, I **went** to the cinema, but I **didn't enjoy** the film much.
- 'When **did** Mr Thomas **die**?' 'About ten years ago.'
- They **didn't invite** us to the party, so we **didn't go**.
- 'Did you **have** time to do the shopping?' 'No, I **didn't**.'

In the following examples, **do** is the main verb in the sentence (**did ... do / didn't do**):

- What **did** you **do** at the weekend? (not What did you at the weekend?)
- I **didn't do** anything. (not I didn't anything)

D

The past of **be** (**am/is/are**) is **was/were**:

I/he/she/it	was/wasn't	was	I/he/she/it?
we/you/they	were/weren't	were	we/you/they?

Note that we do not use **did** in negatives and questions with **was/were**:

- I **was** angry because they **were** late.
- Was** the weather good when you **were** on holiday?
- They **weren't** able to come because they **were** so busy.
- Did you go out last night or **were** you too tired?

Exercises

5.1 Read what Laura says about a typical working day:



Laura

I usually get up at 7 o'clock and have a big breakfast. I walk to work, which takes me about half an hour. I start work at 8.45. I never have lunch. I finish work at 5 o'clock. I'm always tired when I get home. I usually cook a meal in the evening. I don't usually go out. I go to bed at about 11 o'clock, and I always sleep well.

Yesterday was a typical working day for Laura. Write what she did or didn't do yesterday.

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 1 She got up | at 7 o'clock. | 7 | at 5 o'clock. |
| 2 She | a big breakfast. | 8 | tired when |
| 3 She | . | 9 | home. |
| 4 It | to get to work. | 10 | a meal yesterday evening. |
| 5 | at 8.45. | 11 | out yesterday evening. |
| 6 | lunch. | 12 | at 11 o'clock. |
| | | | well last night. |

5.2 Complete the sentences using the following verbs in the correct form:

buy catch cost fall hurt sell spend teach throw write

- 1 Mozart wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
- 2 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father taught me.'
- 3 We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we sold it.
- 4 Dave fell down the stairs this morning and hurt his leg.
- 5 Joe threw the ball to Sue, who caught it.
- 6 Ann bought a lot of money yesterday. She spent a dress which £100.

5.3 You ask James about his holiday. Write your questions.

Hi. How are things?

Fine, thanks. I've just had a great holiday.

- 1 Where did you go ?
To the U.S. We went on a trip from San Francisco to Denver.
- 2 How ? By car?
Yes, we hired a car in San Francisco.
- 3 It's a long way to drive. How long ? to get to Denver?
Two weeks.
- 4 Where ? In hotels?
Yes, small hotels or motels.
- 5 good?
Yes, but it was very hot – sometimes too hot.
- 6 the Grand Canyon?
Of course. It was wonderful.

5.4 Complete the sentences. Put the verb into the correct form, positive or negative.

- 1 It was warm, so I took off my coat. (take)
- 2 The film wasn't very good. I didn't enjoy it much. (enjoy)
- 3 I knew Sarah was busy, so I disturbed her. (disturb)
- 4 We were very tired, so we left the party early. (leave)
- 5 The bed was very uncomfortable. I slept well. (sleep)
- 6 The window was open and a bird flew into the room. (fly)
- 7 The hotel wasn't very expensive. It cost much to stay there. (cost)
- 8 I was in a hurry, so I had time to phone you. (have)
- 9 It was hard carrying the bags. They were very heavy. (be)

Past continuous (I was doing)

A

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis. They started at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.
So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

They **were playing** = they were in the middle of playing.
They had not finished playing.

Was/were -ing is the **past continuous**:

I/he/she/it we/you/they	was were	playing doing working etc.
----------------------------	---------------------------	---

B

I was doing something = I was in the middle of doing something at a certain time. The action or situation had already started before this time, but had not finished:



C

Compare the **past continuous** (I **was doing**) and **past simple** (I **did**):

Past continuous (in the middle of an action)

- I **was walking** home when I met Dan.
(in the middle of walking home)
- Kate **was watching** TV when we arrived.

Past simple (complete action)

- I **walked** home after the party last night.
(= all the way, completely)
- Kate **watched** television a lot when she was ill last year.

D

We often use the past simple and the past continuous together to say that something happened in the middle of something else:

- Matt **phoned** while we **were having** dinner.
- It **was raining** when I **got up**.
- I **saw** you in the park yesterday. You **were sitting** on the grass and **reading** a book.
- I **hurt** my back while I **was working** in the garden.

But we use the past simple to say that one thing happened after another:

- I **was walking** along the road when I **saw** Dan. So I **stopped**, and we **had** a chat.

Compare:

- When Karen arrived, we **were having** dinner. (= we had already started before she arrived)

- When Karen arrived, we **had** dinner. (= Karen arrived, and then we had dinner)

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **want**) are not normally used in the continuous (see Unit 4A):

- We were good friends. We **knew** each other well. (not We were knowing)
- I was enjoying the party, but Chris **wanted** to go home. (not was wanting)

Exercises

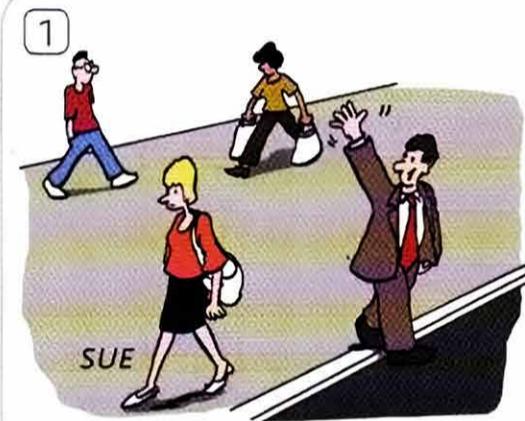
- 6.1** What were you doing at these times? Write sentences as in the examples. The past continuous is not always necessary (see the second example).

- 1 (at 8 o'clock yesterday evening) I was having dinner.
- 2 (at 5 o'clock last Monday) I was on a bus on my way home.
- 3 (at 10.15 yesterday morning)
- 4 (at 4.30 this morning)
- 5 (at 7.45 yesterday evening)
- 6 (half an hour ago)

- 6.2** Use your own ideas to complete the sentences. Use the past continuous.

- 1 Matt phoned while we were having dinner.
- 2 The doorbell rang while I .
- 3 The car began to make a strange noise when we .
- 4 Jessica fell asleep while she .
- 5 The television was on, but nobody .

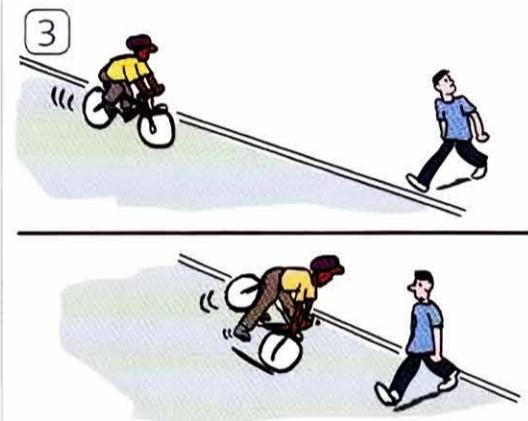
- 6.3** Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



I saw (see) Sue in town yesterday, but she (not / see) me. She (look) the other way.



I (meet) Tom and Jane at the airport a few weeks ago. They (go) to Paris and I (go) to Rome. We (have) a chat while we (wait) for our flights.



I (cycle) home yesterday when a man (step) out into the road in front of me. I (go) quite fast, but luckily I (manage) to stop in time and (not / hit) him.

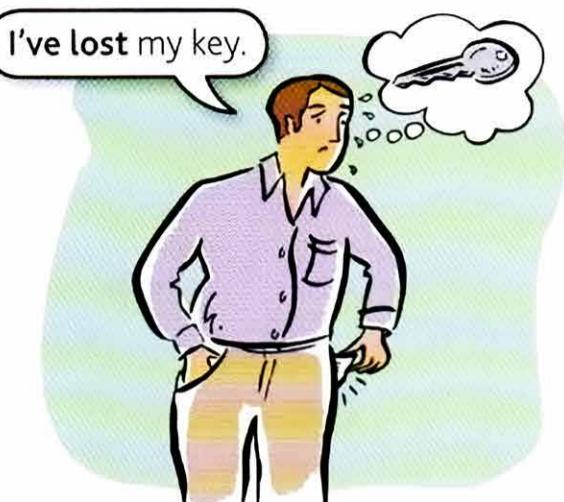
- 6.4** Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.

- 1 Jenny was waiting (wait) for me when I arrived (arrive).
- 2 'What (you / do) at this time yesterday?' 'I was asleep.'
- 3 ' (you / go) out last night?' 'No, I was too tired.'
- 4 How fast (happen)? (you / drive) when the accident (happened)?
- 5 Sam (take) a picture of me while I (not / look).
- 6 We were in a very difficult position. We (not / know) what to do.
- 7 I haven't seen Alan for ages. When I last (try) to find a job. (see) him, he
- 8 I (walk) along the street when suddenly I (hear) footsteps behind me. Somebody (follow) me. I was scared and I (start) to run.
- 9 When I was young, I (want) to be a pilot.
- 10 Last night I (drop) a plate when I (do) the washing-up. Fortunately it (not / break).

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	lost done been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (**finished/decided** etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it now)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it now)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out now)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is now?)

C

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E

You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive break fall go up grow improve lose

- 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
- 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster.
- 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2.
- 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.
- 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.
- 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it.
- 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12.

Tom ... has lost his key.

Lisa

The bus fare

Her English

Dan

The letter

The

7.2 Put in been or gone.

- 1 James is on holiday. He's ... gone ... to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Alice isn't here at the moment. She's to the shop to get a newspaper.
- 4 Tom has out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 5 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

A

- 1 Would you like something to eat?
- 2 Do you know where Julia is?
- 3 What time is David leaving?
- 4 What's in the newspaper today?
- 5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?
- 6 Are your friends here yet?
- 7 What does Tim think about your plan?

B

- No, thanks. I've just had lunch.
(I / just / have / lunch)
- Yes,
(I / just / see / her)
-
(he / already / leave)
- I don't know.
(I / not / read / it yet)
- No,
(she / already / see / the film)
- Yes,
(they / just / arrive)
-
(we / not / tell / him yet)

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with just, already or yet.

- 1 After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?' You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- 2 Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?' You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- 3 You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- 4 You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- 5 You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- 6 You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- 7 Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A

Study this example conversation:

- DAVE: Have you **travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? Have you ever **been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.

Jane's life
(a period until now)

past now

When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been** / **have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

Some more examples:

- Have you ever **eaten** caviar?
- We've never **had** a car.
- 'Have you **read** Hamlet?' 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've **ever seen**.

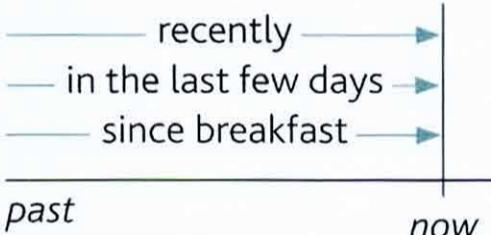
Been (to) = visited:

- I've never **been to** China. Have you **been** there?

B

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently** / **in the last few days** / **so far** / **since breakfast** etc.):

- Have you **heard** anything from Brian **recently**?
- I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**.
- I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**.
(= from breakfast until now)
- It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.



past now

C

In the same way we use the present perfect with **today** / **this evening** / **this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- Have you **had** a holiday **this year**?
- I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. Have you?
- Rob **hasn't worked** very hard **this term**.



past now

D

We say: It's the (first) time something **has happened**. For example:

- Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one.
It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (not drives)
- or He **has never driven** a car **before**.
- Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (not happens)
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with ever.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen have have meet play read see try

A

- 1 What's Mark's sister like?
- 2 Is everything going well?
- 3 Are you hungry?
- 4 Can you play chess?
- 5 Are you enjoying your holiday?
- 6 What's that book like?
- 7 Is Brussels an interesting place?
- 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday.
- 9 Do you like caviar?
- 10 Mike was late for work again today.
- 11 Who's that woman by the door?

B

- I've no idea. I've never met her.
 Yes, we haven't had any problems so far.
 Yes. I much today.
 Yes, but for ages.
 Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time.
 I don't know. it.
 I've no idea. there.
 Yes, it's the second time this month.
 I don't know. it.
 Again? He late every day this week.
 I don't know. her before.

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use I haven't and choose from the boxes.

used a computer
been to the cinema

travelled by bus
read a book

eaten any fruit
lost anything

today
this week
recently
for ages
since ...
this year

- 1 I haven't used a computer today.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

8.4 Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.

You ask: Have you driven a car before?

He says: No, this is the first time I've driven a car.

- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.

You ask: Have

He says: No, this is the first

- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.

You ask:

She says:

- 4 Maria is in Japan. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.

You ask:

She says:

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A

It has been raining

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you	have	(= I've etc.)	been	doing
he/she/it	has	(= he's etc.)		

waiting
playing
etc.

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped.

There is a connection with *now*:

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (= you're out of breath *now*)
- Paul is very tired. **He's been working** very hard. (= he's tired *now*)
- Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have you been doing?**
- I've been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
- Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you everywhere.

B

It has been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?**

It has been raining for two hours.

We use the present perfect continuous in this way especially with **how long, for ... and since ...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- Tim is still watching TV. **He's been watching TV all day.**
- Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

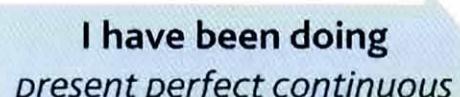
- Silvia is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing** since she was eight.
- Every morning they meet in the same cafe. **They've been going** there **for years**.

C

Compare I am doing (see Unit 1) and I have been doing:



- Don't disturb me now. **I'm working.**
- We need an umbrella. **It's raining.**
- Hurry up! **We're waiting.**



now

- I've been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- The ground is wet. **It's been raining.**
- We've been waiting** for an hour.

Exercises

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?



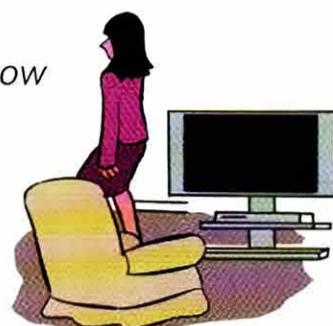
now



They 've been shopping.



now



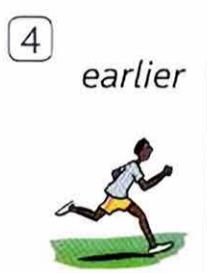
She



now



They



now



He

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- 1 You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?)
- 3 You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?)
- 4 A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?)
- 5 A friend tells you about his job – he sells mobile phones. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / sell / mobile phones?)

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- 2 We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We for 20 minutes.
- 3 I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I since December.
- 4 Jessica is working in a supermarket. She started working there on 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
- 5 Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- 1 Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- 2 Hello, Tom. (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
- 3 Why (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- 4 Linda is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
- 5 (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 6 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, (he / work).' (he / work).'
- 7 Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.

Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.

She **has been painting** her bedroom.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



Her bedroom was green. Now it is yellow.

She **has painted** her bedroom.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** my bike.
- Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.
- It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since we last met?
- Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- My bike is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.
- Somebody **has eaten** all the chocolates. The box is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- Have you ever played** tennis?

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- How long **have you been reading** that book?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much, how many or how many times*:

- How much of that book **have you read**?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's **sent** lots of emails this morning.
- They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (not I've been knowing)
- How long **have you had** that camera? (not have you been having)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you can use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous:

- I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

Exercises

10.1 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

1 Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.

He has been reading for two hours. (read)

He has read 53 pages so far. (read)

2 Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her trip three months ago.

She for three months. (travel)
..... six countries so far. (visit)

3 Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he won the national championship again – for the fourth time.

..... the national championship four times. (win)
..... since he was ten. (play)

4 When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.

They films since they left college. (make)
..... five films since they left college. (make)

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

1 You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:

(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?

2 You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:

(wait / long?) Have

3 You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:

(catch / any fish?)

4 Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:

(how many people / invite?)

5 A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:

(how long / teach?)

6 You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:

(how many books / write?)

(how long / write / books?)

7 A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:

(how long / save?)

(how much money / save?)

10.3 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (**I have done**) or continuous (**I have been doing**).

1 Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?

2 Look! (somebody / break) that window.

3 You look tired. (you / work) hard?

4 ' (you / ever / work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'

5 'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where (she / go)?'

6 My brother is an actor. (he / appear) in several films.

7 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. (I / not / wait) long.'

8 'Is it still raining?' 'No, (it / stop).'

9 (I / lose) my phone. (you / see)
it anywhere?

10 (I / read) the book you lent me, but

..... (I / not / finish) it yet. It's very interesting.

11 (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.

12 This is a very old book. (I / have) it since I was a child.

How long have you (been) ... ?

Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (present)

but **How long have** they been married? (present perfect)
(- How long are they married?)

They have been married for 20 years.
(not They are married for 20 years)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- Paul is in hospital.
but **He's been** in hospital **since Monday.** (= He **has** been ...)
(not Paul is in hospital since Monday)
 - Do you **know** each other well?
but **Have** you **known** each other **for a long time?**
(not Do you know)
 - She's **waiting** for somebody.
but **She's been waiting all morning.**
 - Do they **have** a car?
but **How long have** they **had** their car?

present
he is
do you know
she is waiting

present perfect
he has been
have you known
she has been waiting

past *now*

B I have known/had/lived etc. is the *present perfect simple*.

I have been learning / been waiting / been doing etc. is the present perfect continuous.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- I've been learning English for six months.
 - It's been raining since lunchtime.
 - Richard has been doing the same job for 20 years.
 - 'How long have you been driving?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- How long **have** you **known** Jane? (*not have you been knowing*)
 - I've **had** a pain in my stomach all day. (*not I've been having*)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For **have**, see Unit 17.

C You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- Julia **has been living / has lived** here for a long time.
 How long **have you been working / have you worked** here?

But use the simple (I've lived / I've done etc.) with **always**:

- I've always lived in the country. (not always been living)

D We say 'I haven't done something since/for ...' (present perfect simple):

- I **haven't seen** Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
 Sarah **hasn't phoned** for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

Exercises

11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him very well.
- 2 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time.
- 3 Sarah and Adam are married since July.
- 4 The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- 5 The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- 6 I like your house. How long are you living there?
- 7 Gary is working in a shop for the last few months.
- 8 I don't know Tom well. We've only met a few times.
- 9 I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.
- 10 That's a very old bike. How long do you have it?

OK

I've known him

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?
- 2 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / teach / English?)
- 3 You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:
(how long / know / Katherine?)
- 4 Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- 5 Tom always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- 6 You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- 7 A friend of yours is having guitar lessons. You ask him:
(how long / have / guitar lessons?)
- 8 You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(always / live / in Chicago?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

A

- 1 Paul is in hospital, isn't he?
- 2 Do you see Ann very often?
- 3 Is Amy married?
- 4 Are you waiting for me?
- 5 You know Mel, don't you?
- 6 Do you still play tennis?
- 7 Is Joe watching TV?
- 8 Do you watch TV a lot?
- 9 Do you have a headache?
- 10 Adrian is never ill, is he?
- 11 Are you feeling ill?
- 12 Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she?
- 13 Do you go to the cinema a lot?
- 14 Would you like to go to New York one day?

B

- Yes, he has been in hospital since Monday.
- No, I haven't seen her for three months.
- Yes, she married for ten years.
- Yes, I for the last half hour.
- Yes, we each other a long time.
- No, I tennis for years.
- Yes, he TV all evening.
- No, I TV for ages.
- Yes, I a headache all morning.
- No, he ill since I've known him.
- Yes, I ill all day.
- Yes, she in Berlin for the last few years.
- No, I to the cinema for ages.
- Yes, I to go to New York.
(use **always** / **want**)

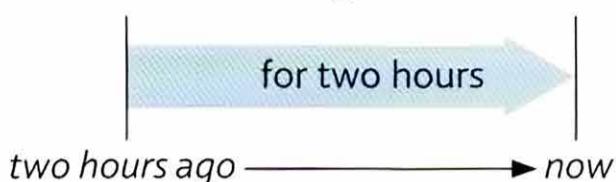
For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

A

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** + a period of time (**two hours, six weeks** etc.):

- I've been waiting **for two hours**.

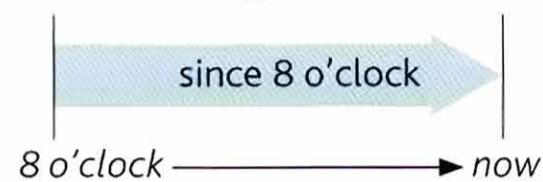


	for	
two hours	20 minutes	five days
a long time	six months	50 years
a week	ages	years

- Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not since six months*)
- I haven't seen Tom **for three days**.

We use **since** + the start of a period (**8 o'clock, Monday, 1999** etc.):

- I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.



	since	
8 o'clock	Monday	12 May
April	2001	Christmas
lunchtime	we arrived	I got up

- Sally has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)
- I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**.

It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- They've been married (for) **ten years**. (with or without **for**)
- They **haven't had** a holiday **for** ten years. (you must use **for**)

We do *not* use **for + all ...** (**all day / all my life** etc.):

- I've lived here **all my life**. (*not for all my life*)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ...** etc.):

- They **haven't had** a holiday **in** **ten years**. (= for ten years)

B

Compare **when ... ?** (+ past simple) and **how long ... ?** (+ present perfect):



- A: **When** did it start raining?
 B: It started raining **an hour ago / at 1 o'clock**.
- A: **How long** has it been raining?
 B: It's been raining **for an hour / since 1 o'clock**.



- A: **When** did Joe and Carol first meet?
 B: They first met **{ a long time ago / when they were at school }**.
- A: **How long** have they known each other?
 B: They've known each other **{ for a long time / since they were at school }**.

C

We say:

It's (= It is)	a long time	since something happened
or It's been (= It has been)		

- It's two years since** I last saw Joe. **or It's been two years since ...**
(= I haven't seen Joe for two years)
- It's ages since** we went to the cinema. **or It's been ages since ...**
(= We haven't been to the cinema for ages)
- How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? **or How long has it been since ... ?**
(= When did Mrs Hill die?)

Exercises

12.1 Write for or since.

- 1 It's been raining ... since ... lunchtime.
- 2 Sarah has lived in Paris 1995.
- 3 Paul has lived in Brazil ten years.
- 4 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here an hour.
- 5 Kevin has been looking for a job he left school.
- 6 I haven't been to a party ages.
- 7 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him last week.
- 8 Jane is away. She's been away Friday.
- 9 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.

12.2 Write questions with **how long** and **when**.

- 1 It's raining.
(how long?) How long has it been raining?
(when?) When did it start raining?
- 2 Kate is learning Japanese.
(how long / learn?)
(when / start?)
- 3 I know Simon.
(how long / you / know?)
(when / you / first / meet?)
- 4 Rebecca and David are married.
(how long?)
(when?)

12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.
- 3 Mark is ill. He became ill on Sunday. He has Sunday.
- 4 Mark is ill. He became ill a few days ago. He has a few days.
- 5 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got
- 6 You have a headache. It started when you woke up.
I've I woke up.
- 7 Sue has been in Italy for the last three weeks.
She went
- 8 You're working in a hotel. You started six months ago.
I've

12.4 Write B's sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 A: Do you often go on holiday?
B: No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.
- 2 A: Do you often see Laura?
B: No, I about a month.
- 3 A: Do you often go to the cinema?
B: No, a long time.
- 4 A: Do you often eat in restaurants?
B: No, ages.

Now write B's answers again. This time use **It's ... since ...**.

- 5 (1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.
- 6 (2) No, its
- 7 (3) No,
- 8 (4)

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)
This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.
Has he lost his key? No, he **has found** it.
Did he lose his key? Yes, he **did**.
He **lost** his key (*past simple*)
but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present tense*. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)
- They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)
- It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.
(*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)
A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

Exercises

- 13.1** Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

1 A man is at a door, looking worried. He says: "I can't get in. I've lost (lose) my key."

2 An office interior with several desks and computers. A speech bubble says: "The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home."

3 A woman is talking on a mobile phone. She says: "I meant to call you last night, but I (forget)."

4 A woman named Helen is sitting at a desk with a computer. She is thinking about pyramids and palm trees. A speech bubble says: "Helen (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now."

5 A woman is talking to a man. She says: "Are you OK?" The man replies: "Yes, I (have) a headache, but I'm fine now."

6 A man is standing next to a red car with the hood open. A woman is sitting in the driver's seat. They are both looking at the engine. A speech bubble says: "Can you help us? Our car (break) down."

- 13.2** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Did you hear about Sue? She's given up her job.
- 2 My mother has grown up in Italy.
- 3 How many poems has William Shakespeare written?
- 4 Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- 5 Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- 6 Who has invented paper?
- 7 Where have you been born?
- 8 Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- 9 Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

OK

grew

- 13.3** Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- 2 The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- 3 I studied German at school, but most of it now. (I / forget)
- 4 The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- 5 What do you think of my English? Do you think ? (it / improve)
- 6 A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
- 7 for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- 8 Where's my bike? outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- 9 Quick! We need to call an ambulance. an accident. (there / be)
- 10 A: Have you heard about Ben? his arm. (he / break)
B: Really? How ? (that / happen)
A: off a ladder. (he / fall)

Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

A

Do not use the present perfect (**I have done**) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, **yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 2005 / when I was a child**). Use a past tense:

- It was** very cold **yesterday**. (*not has been*)
- Paul and Lucy **arrived ten minutes ago**. (*not have arrived*)
- Did you eat** a lot of sweets **when you were a child**? (*not have you eaten*)
- I **got** home late **last night**. I **was** very tired and **went** straight to bed.

Use the past to ask **When ... ?** or **What time ... ?**:

- When did** your friends **arrive**? (*not have ... arrived*)
- What time did** you **finish** work?

Compare:

Present perfect

- Tom **has lost** his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or **has she left**?

Past simple

- Tom **lost** his key **yesterday**. He couldn't get into the house.
- When did** Carla **leave**?

B

Compare:

Present perfect (have done)

- I've done** a lot of work **today**.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *until now*. For example:

today / this week / since 2007.

past

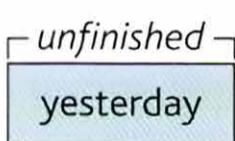
now



- It **hasn't rained** **this week**.
- Have you seen** Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning)
- Have you seen** Tim **recently**?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've **been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives in Los Angeles. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- I **have never played** golf. (in my life)
- It's the **last day of your holiday**. You say: It's **been** a really good holiday. I've really **enjoyed** it.

past

now



- It **didn't rain** **last week**.
- Did you **see** Anna **this morning**? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- Did you **see** Tim **on Sunday**?
- A: **Was** Lisa at the party **on Sunday**? B: I don't think so. I **didn't** see her.
- We **waited** (or **were waiting**) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Jack **lived** in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles.
- I **didn't play** golf **last summer**.
- After you come back from **holiday** you say: It **was** a really good holiday. I really **enjoyed** it.

Exercises

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere.
- 2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child?
- 3 I've bought a new car. You must come and see it.
- 4 I've bought a new car last week.
- 5 Where have you been yesterday evening?
- 6 Lucy has left school in 1999.
- 7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him?
- 8 'Have you been to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.'
- 9 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten much today.
- 10 When has this book been published?

OK

Did you eat

14.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

- 1 (it / not / rain / this week) It hasn't rained this week.
- 2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather
- 3 (it / cold / last week) It
- 4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I
- 5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today)
- 6 (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year)
- 7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year)
- 8 (you / have / a holiday recently?)

14.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 'What's Madrid like?' 'I don't know. ... I haven't been ... (I / not / be) there.'
- 2 When (I / get) home last night, (I / be)
very tired and (I / go) straight to bed.
- 3 A: (you / see) Lisa recently?
B: Yes, (I / saw) her a few days ago.
- 4 I'm tired. (I / not / sleep) well last night.
- 5 The bus drivers were on strike last week. (there / be) no buses.
- 6 Mr Lee (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then (he / give)
it up. Now he works as a gardener.
- 7 Mary lives in Dublin. (she / live) there all her life.
- 8 A: (you / go) to the cinema last night?
B: Yes, but (it / be) a mistake. The film (be) awful.
- 9 My grandfather (die) before I was born.
(I / never / meet) him.
- 10 I don't know Karen's husband. (I / never / meet) him.
- 11 It's nearly lunchtime, and (I / not / see) Martin all morning.
I wonder where he is.
- 12 'Where do you live?' 'In Boston.'
'How long (you / live) there?' 'Five years.'
'Where (you / live) before that?' 'In Chicago.'
'And how long (you / live) in Chicago?' 'Two years.'

14.4 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- 1 (something you haven't done today) I haven't eaten any fruit today
- 2 (something you haven't done today)
- 3 (something you didn't do yesterday)
- 4 (something you did yesterday evening)
- 5 (something you haven't done recently)
- 6 (something you've done a lot recently)

Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:

at 10.30



PAUL

at 11.00



SARAH

Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

Had gone is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	gone seen finished etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had** + *past participle* (**gone/seen/finished** etc.).

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had** ...):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.
or ... He **had** never **flew** before.

B

Compare the *present perfect* (**have seen** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had seen** etc.):

Present perfect

have seen

- | | |
|------|-----|
| past | now |
|------|-----|
- Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
 - We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
 - The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

Past perfect

had seen

- | | | |
|--|------|-----|
| | past | now |
|--|------|-----|
- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
 - We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
 - The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple* (**left**, **was** etc.) and the *past perfect* (**had left**, **had been** etc.):

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned. She **was** at her mother's house.

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- Kate **had just got** home when I phoned. She **had been** at her mother's house.

Exercises

15.1 Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.
(she / go / out) She had gone out.
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.
(it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.
(the film / already / start)
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.
(she / just / have / breakfast)

15.2 For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.
(fly) He'd never flown before.
- 2 Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.
(hear) I before.
- 3 Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.
(play) He before.
- 4 Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.
(be there) We before.

15.3 Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night.
(b) <u>We arrived at work in the morning.</u>
(c) We called the police. 2 (a) Laura went out this morning.
(b) <u>I rang her doorbell.</u>
(c) There was no answer. 3 (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago.
(b) <u>I met him the same day.</u>
(c) He looked very well. 4 (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails.
(b) She never replied to them.
(c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u>
(d) He was very surprised. | <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So the police.</p> </div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but no answer. out.</p> </div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>I met Jim a few days ago. just holiday. very well.</p> </div> <div style="border-left: 1px solid black; padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Yesterday Kevin from Sally. very surprised. lots of emails, but</p> </div> |
|--|---|

15.4 Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 1 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he had (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we (break) down, so we (see) a car which (stop) to help.

Past perfect continuous (I had been doing)

A

Study this example situation:

yesterday morning



Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window. The sun was shining, but the ground was very wet.

It had been raining.

It was *not* raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had been** raining before.

Had been -ing is the *past perfect continuous*:

I/we/you/they he/she/it	had	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	been	doing working playing etc.
----------------------------	------------	-------------------------------	-------------	---

Some more examples:

- When the boys came into the house, their clothes were dirty, their hair was untidy and one of them had a black eye. **They'd been fighting.**
- I was very tired when I got home. **I'd been working** hard all day.
- When I went to Madrid a few years ago, I stayed with a friend of mine. She **hadn't been living** there very long, but she knew the city very well.

B

You can say that something **had been happening** for a period of time before something else happened:

- We'd **been playing** tennis for about half an hour when it started to rain heavily.
- Paul went to the doctor last Friday. He **hadn't been feeling** well for some time.

C

Compare **have been -ing** (*present perfect continuous*) and **had been -ing** (*past perfect continuous*):

Present perfect continuous

I have been -ing

past

now

- I hope the bus comes soon. I've **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before now*)
- James is out of breath. He **has been running**.

Past perfect continuous

I had been -ing

past

now

- At last the bus came. I'd **been waiting** for 20 minutes. (*before the bus came*)
- James was out of breath. He **had been running**.

D

Compare **was -ing** (*past continuous*) and **had been -ing**:

- It **wasn't raining** when we went out. The sun **was shining**. But it **had been raining**, so the ground was wet.
- Katherine **was sitting** in an armchair resting. She was tired because she'd **been working** very hard.

E

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (*not had been knowing*)
- I was surprised when Lisa cut her hair. She'd **had** long hair since I first met her. (*not she'd been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

Exercises

16.1 Read the situations and make sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 I was very tired when I arrived home.
(I / work / hard all day) *I'd been working hard all day.*
- 2 The two boys came into the house. They had a football and they were both very tired.
(they / play / football)
- 3 I was disappointed when I had to cancel my holiday.
(I / look / forward to it)
- 4 Ann woke up in the middle of the night. She was frightened and didn't know where she was.
(she / dream)
- 5 When I got home, Mark was sitting in front of the TV. He had just turned it off.
(he / watch / a film)

16.2 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 We played tennis yesterday. Half an hour after we began playing, it started to rain.
We had been playing for half an hour when it started to rain.
- 2 I had arranged to meet Tom in a restaurant. I arrived and waited for him. After 20 minutes I realised that I was in the wrong restaurant.
I for 20 minutes when I the wrong restaurant.
- 3 Sarah got a job in a factory. Five years later the factory closed down.
At the time the factory , Sarah there for five years.
- 4 I went to a concert last week. The orchestra began playing. After about ten minutes a man in the audience suddenly started shouting.
The orchestra when

This time make your own sentence:

- 5 I began walking along the road. I when

16.3 Put the verb into the most suitable form, past continuous (**I was doing**), past perfect (**I had done**) or past perfect continuous (**I had been doing**).

- 1 It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours *were having* (have) a party.
- 2 We were good friends. *We'd known* (we / know) each other for years.
- 3 John and I went for a walk. I had difficulty keeping up with him because (he / walk) so fast.
- 4 Sue was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. (she / run).
- 5 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table with their mouths full. (they / eat).
- 6 When I arrived, everybody was sitting round the table and talking. Their mouths were empty, but their stomachs were full. (they / eat).
- 7 James was on his hands and knees on the floor. (he / look) for his contact lens.
- 8 When I arrived, Kate (wait) for me. She was annoyed because I was late and (she / wait) for a long time.
- 9 I was sad when I sold my car. (I / have) it for a very long time.
- 10 We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. (we / travel) for more than 24 hours.

Have and have got

A

Have and have got (= for possession, relationships, illnesses etc.)

You can use **have** or **have got**. There is no difference in meaning:

- They **have** a new car. *or* They've **got** a new car.
- Lisa **has** two brothers. *or* Lisa's **got** two brothers.
- I **have** a headache. *or* I've **got** a headache.
- Our house **has** a small garden. *or* Our house **has got** a small garden.
- He **has** a few problems. *or* He's **got** a few problems.

With these meanings (possession etc.), you cannot use continuous forms (**am having** etc.):

- We're enjoying our holiday. We **have** / We've **got** a nice room in the hotel. (*not* We're having a nice room)

For the past we use **had** (without **got**):

- Lisa **had** long hair when she was a child. (*not* Lisa had got)

B

In questions and negative sentences there are three possible forms:

Do you have any questions?

Have you got any questions?

Have you any questions? (*less usual*)

Does she have a car?

Has she got a car?

Has she a car? (*less usual*)

I **don't have** any questions.

I **haven't got** any questions.

I **haven't** any questions. (*less usual*)

She **doesn't have** a car.

She **hasn't got** a car.

She **hasn't** a car. (*less usual*)

In past questions and negative sentences we use **did/didn't**:

- Did you have** a car when you were living in Paris?
- I **didn't have** my phone, so I couldn't call you.
- Lisa **had** long hair, **didn't** she?

C

Have breakfast / have a shower / have a good time etc.

We also use **have** (*but not have got*) for many actions and experiences. For example:

have

- breakfast / dinner / a cup of coffee / something to eat** etc.
- a bath / a shower / a swim / a break / a rest / a party / a holiday**
- an accident / an experience / a dream**
- a look** (at something)
- a chat / a conversation / a discussion** (with somebody)
- trouble / difficulty / fun / a good time** etc.
- a baby** (= give birth to a baby)

Have got is *not* possible in the expressions in the box. Compare:

- Sometimes I **have** (= eat) a sandwich for my lunch. (*not* I've got)
- but** I've **got** / I **have** some sandwiches. Would you like one?

You can use continuous forms (**am having** etc.) with the expressions in the box:

- We're enjoying our holiday. We're **having** a great time. (*not* We have)
- Mark **is having** a shower at the moment. He has a shower every day.

In questions and negative sentences we use **do/does/did**:

- I **don't** usually **have** a big breakfast. (*not* I usually haven't)
- What time **does** Chris **have** lunch? (*not* has Chris lunch)
- Did you **have** trouble finding a place to live?

Exercises

17.1 Write negative sentences with **have**. Some are present and some are past.

- 1 I can't get into the house. (a key) I haven't got a key.
- 2 I couldn't read the letter. (my glasses) I didn't have my glasses.
- 3 I can't get onto the roof. (a ladder) I ...
- 4 We couldn't visit the museum. (enough time) We ...
- 5 He couldn't find his way to our house. (a map) ...
- 6 She can't pay her bills. (any money) ...
- 7 I can't go swimming today. (enough energy) ...
- 8 They couldn't take any pictures. (a camera) ...

17.2 Which alternatives are correct? Sometimes two alternatives are possible, sometimes only one.

- 1 Excuse me, a pen I could borrow?
 A have you got B are you having C do you have (both A and C are correct)
- 2 time to go to the bank yesterday?
 A Had you got B Did you have C Had you
- 3 I need a stamp for this letter. one?
 A Do you have B Are you having C Have you got
- 4 What does Jack do? a job?
 A Does he have B Is he having C Has he got
- 5 a lot of friends when you were a child?
 A Did you have B Were you having C Had you
- 6 When you worked in your last job, your own office?
 A had you B have you got C did you have

17.3 Are the underlined verbs OK? Change them where necessary.

- 1 Is there anything you want to ask? Do you have any questions?
- 2 Lisa had got long hair when she was a child.
- 3 Tom couldn't contact us because he hadn't our number.
- 4 'Are you feeling OK?' 'No, I'm having a toothache.'
- 5 Are you enjoying yourself? Are you having a good time?
- 6 It started to rain. I got wet because I hadn't an umbrella.
- 7 Will can't drive. He doesn't have a driving licence.
- 8 Did your trip go OK? Had you any problems?
- 9 My friend called me when I was having breakfast.

OK
 Lisa had long hair.

17.4 Complete the sentences. Use an expression from the list with **have** in the correct form.

have a baby	have a break	have a chat	have trouble	have a good flight
have a look	have lunch	have a party	have a nice time	have a shower

- 1 I don't eat much during the day. I never have lunch.
- 2 David starts work at 8 o'clock and at 10.30.
- 3 We last week. It was great – we invited lots of people.
- 4 Excuse me, can I at your newspaper, please?
- 5 Jim is away on holiday at the moment. I hope he
- 6 I met Ann in the supermarket yesterday. We stopped and
- 7 A: finding the book you wanted?
 B: No, I found it OK.
- 8 Suzanne a few weeks ago. It's her second child.
- 9 A: Why didn't you answer the phone?
 B: I
- 10 You meet your friend Sally at the airport. She has just arrived. You say:
 Hi, Sally. How are you?

Used to (do)

A

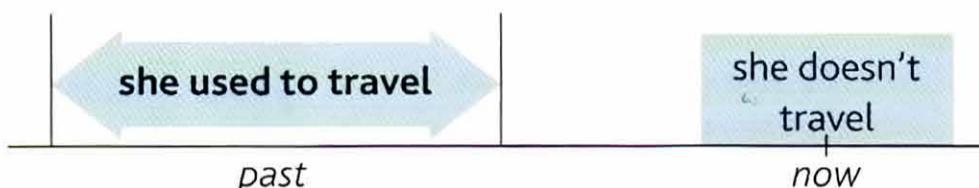
Study this example situation:



Nicola doesn't travel much these days.
She prefers to stay at home.

But she **used to travel** a lot.
She **used to go** away two or three times a year.

She **used to travel** a lot = she travelled a lot often in the past, but she doesn't do this any more.



B

Something **used to** happen = it happened often in the past, but no longer happens:

- I **used to play** tennis a lot, but I don't play very much now.
- David **used to spend** a lot of money on clothes. These days he can't afford it.
- 'Do you go to the cinema much?' 'Not now, but I **used to**.' (= I used to go)

We also use **used to** ... for things that were true, but are not true any more:

- This building is now a furniture shop. It **used to be** a cinema.
- I **used to think** Mark was unfriendly, but now I realise he's a very nice person.
- I've started drinking tea recently. I never **used to like** it before.
- Lisa **used to have** very long hair when she was a child.

C

'I **used to** do something' is past. There is no present. You cannot say 'I **use to do**'.To talk about the present, use the present simple (I **do**).

Compare:

past	he used to play	we used to live	there used to be
present	he plays	we live	there is

- We **used to live** in a small village, but now we **live** in London.
- There **used to be** four cinemas in the town. Now there **is** only one.

D

The normal question form is **did** (you) **use to** ... ?:

- Did** you **use to eat** a lot of sweets when you were a child?

The negative form is **didn't use to** ... (**used not to** ... is also possible):

- I **didn't use to** like him. (or I **used not to** like him.)

E

Compare **I used to do** and **I was doing**:

- I **used to watch** TV a lot. (= I watched TV often in the past, but I no longer do this)
- I **was watching** TV when Rob called. (= I was in the middle of watching TV)

F

Do not confuse **I used to do** and **I am used to doing** (see Unit 61). The structures and meanings are different:

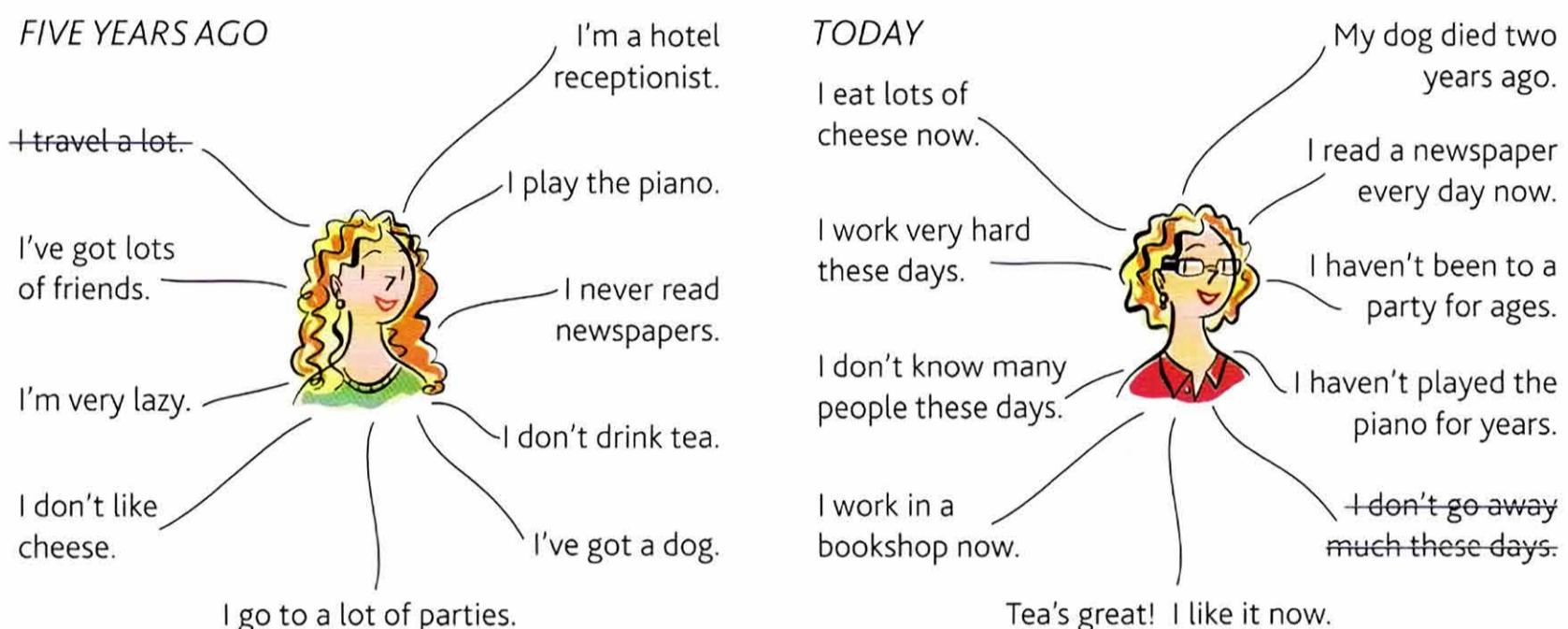
- I **used to live** alone. (= I lived alone in the past, but I no longer live alone)
- I **am used to living** alone. (= I live alone, and I don't find it strange or difficult because I've been living alone for some time)

Exercises

18.1 Complete the sentences with **use(d)** to + a suitable verb.

- 1 Nicola doesn't travel much now. She used to travel a lot, but she prefers to stay at home these days.
- 2 Sophie a motorbike, but last year she sold it and bought a car.
- 3 We moved to Spain a few years ago. We in Paris.
- 4 I rarely eat ice-cream now, but I it when I was a child.
- 5 Jackie my best friend, but we aren't good friends any more.
- 6 It only takes me about 40 minutes to get to work now that the new road is open. It more than an hour.
- 7 There a hotel near the airport, but it closed a long time ago.
- 8 When you lived in New York, to the theatre very often?

18.2 Compare what Karen said five years ago and what she says today:



Now write sentences about how Karen has changed. Use **used to / didn't use to / never used to** in the first part of your sentence.

- 1 She used to travel a lot, but she doesn't go away much these days.
- 2 She used but
- 3 but
- 4 but
- 5 but
- 6 but
- 7 but
- 8 but
- 9 but
- 10 but

18.3 Write sentences about yourself like the examples. Begin **I used to ... (I used to be/work/like/play/read etc.).**

- 1 I used to live in a small village, but now I live in London.
- 2 I used to play tennis a lot, but I don't play any more.
- 3 I used , but
- 4 I
- 5
- Now begin with **I didn't use to ...**.
- 6 I didn't use to read a lot, but I do now.
- 7 I didn't
- 8

Present tenses (I am doing / I do) for the future

A

Present continuous (I am doing) with a future meaning



This is Ben's diary for next week.

He **is playing** tennis on Monday afternoon.
He **is going** to the dentist on Tuesday morning.
He **is having** dinner with Kate on Friday.

In all these examples, Ben has already decided and arranged to do these things.

I'm doing something (tomorrow) = I have already decided and arranged to do it:

- A: What **are** you **doing** on Saturday evening? (*not* What do you do)
- B: **I'm going** to the theatre. (*not* I go)
- A: What time **is** Katherine **arriving** tomorrow?
B: Half past ten. **I'm meeting** her at the station.
- I'm not working** tomorrow, so we can go out somewhere.
- Steve **isn't playing** football next Saturday. He's hurt his leg.

'I'm **going to** (do)' is also possible in these sentences:

- What **are** you **going to do** on Saturday evening?

But the present continuous is more natural when we talk about arrangements. See Unit 20B.

Do not use **will** to talk about what you have arranged to do:

- What **are** you **doing** this evening? (*not* What will you do)
- Alex **is getting** married next month. (*not* will get)

You can also use the present continuous for an action *just before you begin to do it*. This happens especially with verbs of movement (**go/come/leave** etc.):

- I'm tired. **I'm going** to bed now. Goodnight. (*not* I go to bed now)
- 'Jess, are you ready yet?' 'Yes, **I'm coming**.' (*not* I come)

B

Present simple (I do) with a future meaning

We use the present simple when we talk about timetables, programmes etc. (for public transport, cinemas etc.):

- My train **leaves** at 11.30, so I need to be at the station by 11.15.
- What time **does** the film **start** this evening?
- It's Wednesday tomorrow. / Tomorrow **is** Wednesday.

You can use the present simple to talk about people if their plans are fixed like a timetable:

- I **start** my new job on Monday.
- What time **do** you **finish** work tomorrow?

But the continuous is more usual for personal arrangements:

- What time **are** you **meeting** Ann tomorrow? (*not* do you meet)

Compare:

Present continuous

- What time **are** you **arriving**?
- I'm going** to the cinema this evening.

Present simple

- What time **does** the train **arrive**?
- The film starts** at 8.15 (this evening).

Exercises

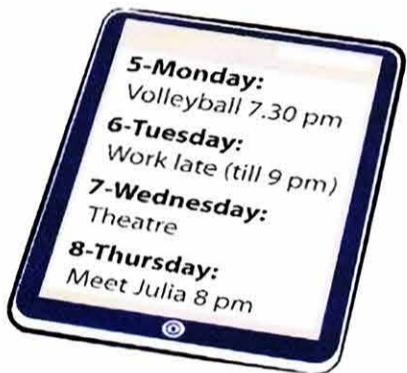
- 19.1** A friend of yours is planning to go on holiday soon. You ask her about her plans. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.



- 1 (where / go?) Where are you going?
- 2 (how long / go for?)
- 3 (when / leave?)
- 4 (go / alone?)
- 5 (travel / by car?)
- 6 (where / stay?)

Scotland.
Ten days.
Next Friday.
No, with a friend.
No, by train.
In a hotel.

- 19.2** Tom wants you to visit him, but you are very busy. Look at your diary for the next few days and explain to him why you can't come.



- TOM: Can you come on Monday evening?
YOU: Sorry, but I'm playing volleyball. . (1)
- TOM: What about Tuesday evening then?
YOU: No, not Tuesday. I . (2)
- TOM: And Wednesday evening?
YOU: . (3)
- TOM: Well, are you free on Thursday?
YOU: I'm afraid not. . (4)

- 19.3** Have you arranged to do anything at these times? Write sentences about yourself.

- 1 (this evening) I'm going out this evening. or I'm not doing anything this evening.
- 2 (tomorrow morning) I .
- 3 (tomorrow evening) .
- 4 (next Sunday) .
- 5 (choose another day or time) .

- 19.4** Put the verb into the more suitable form, present continuous or present simple.

- 1 I'm going (I / go) to the cinema this evening.
- 2 Does the film start (the film / start) at 3.30 or 4.30?
- 3 (we / have) a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
- 4 The art exhibition (finish) on 3 May.
- 5 (I / not / go) out this evening.
(I / stay) at home.
- 6 ' (you / do) anything tomorrow morning?' 'No, I'm free. Why?'
- 7 (we / go) to a concert tonight.
(it / start) at 7.30.
- 8 (I / leave) now. I've come to say goodbye.
- 9 A: Have you seen Liz recently?
B: No, but (we / meet) for lunch next week.
- 10 You are on the train to London and you ask another passenger:
Excuse me. What time (this train / get) to London?
- 11 You are talking to Helen:
Helen, (I / go) to the supermarket. (you / come) with me?
- 12 You and a friend are watching television. You say:
I'm bored with this programme. What time (it / end)?
- 13 (I / not / use) the car this evening, so you can have it.
- 14 Sue (come) to see us tomorrow.
(she / travel) by train and her train (arrive) at 10.15.