

1.2 Present perfect simple and continuous

- 1 Do you know if Peter has called?
2 My manager won't be pleased because I haven't finished the report yet.
3 Haven't you sent that email yet?
4 She has been living here for six months.
5 We're exhausted. We've been driving all night.
6 How long have you been waiting?

Form

- The present perfect simple is have + past participle.
I've never been to Africa.
- The present perfect continuous is have + been + -ing.
It's been raining since 10 o'clock this morning.

Use

- We use the present perfect to connect the past and the present.
We can often use either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous with *since* or *for* when something started in the past and continues now, or is repeated up to now.
I've lived / we've been living here for about a year now.
I've listened / been listening to the new album a lot since I got it.

However, if we want to put a focus on activity or on the 'doing' and to emphasize 'how long', we tend to use the present perfect continuous. And to say 'how many times' something has happened, we use the present perfect simple.
I've been working hard since the start of term.
I've written three assignments since the start of term.
Also, to emphasize that something is short-term and perhaps temporary, we tend to use the present perfect continuous.
He's only been working here for a few weeks.
We usually use the present perfect simple and not the present perfect continuous to talk about states rather than actions with verbs like *be*, *have*, *know*, *seem*.
I've known each other since university.
She's had that laptop for over ten years!

- We usually use the present perfect continuous for actions continuing or repeated for a short time up to the present, e.g. with phrases like *all day* and *recently*.
I've been sending emails all morning.
What have you been doing recently?
- We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that happened at an unspecified time in the past, when there is present relevance or an impact on the present. We often use it to announce news.
I've finished the assignment at last!
Have you heard? Tom's lost his job.

Research ¹ (predict) that about half of the languages spoken on Earth today will be extinct by the end of the century. Globalization and online communication, both of which ² (increase) at an unprecedented rate in recent years, are usually blamed. However, these aspects of the modern world may also help to save many of these endangered languages. For example, linguists ³ (develop) a smartphone app to teach Tuvan, an indigenous language spoken in Siberia and Mongolia, which is in danger of disappearing. In fact, for some time now a number of endangered languages ⁴ (use) social media and other online technologies to keep themselves alive. And while globalization ⁵ (be) responsible for a lot of negative pressures on small cultures to change, a positive effect of globalization is that through digital technology, some languages ⁶ (bring back) from extinction.

2 Complete the text with the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 A Are you ready for your exam tomorrow?
B I hope so. I've revised / *ve been revising* for it all week.
2 A Do you want some lunch?
B I've eaten / *ve been eating* already.
3 A Have you waited / Have you been waiting long?
B No, not long. Just a few minutes.
4 A Good news! Alex's fixed / *s been fixing* the computer.
B Great! I've had / *ve been having* enough of using my phone to send emails.
5 A How long have you learnt / have you been learning English?
B For about five years.
A And have you been / have you been going to the UK?
B Yes, I've been / *ve been going* there a couple of times.
6 A You're late! What have you done / have you been doing for the last hour?
B Sorry. We've tried / *ve been trying* to find my wallet.
I've lost / *ve been losing* it.