

Present Perfect & Present Perfect Continuous Tense Exercises

► Practice 2. The present perfect. (Chart 3-1)

Complete the sentences using the present perfect tense. Write the correct past participle of the verbs in **bold**.

1. I often **eat** Thai food. I have _____ Thai food three times this week.
2. I sometimes **visit** my cousins on weekends. I have _____ them twice this month.
3. I **work** at the Regional Bank. I have _____ there for eleven years.
4. I **like** card games. I have _____ card games since I was a child.
5. I **know** Professor Blonsky. She's my next-door neighbor. I have _____ her all my life.
6. I **wear** glasses. I have _____ glasses since I was ten years old.
7. I **take** piano lessons. I have _____ piano lessons for several years.
8. I **go** to Unisex Haircutters once a month. I have _____ to the same shop for twenty years.
9. I **ride** a bicycle for exercise. I have _____ a bicycle for about twenty years.
10. I **am** in a bicycle-riding club. I have _____ a member of this club for fifteen years.

► Practice 3. The present perfect. (Chart 3-1)

Complete each sentence with *for* or *since*.

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|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. I haven't seen Elvira . . . | 2. Mehdi and Pat have been friends . . . |
| a. _____ several years. | a. _____ they were in college. |
| b. _____ a long time. | b. _____ about twenty years. |
| c. _____ the holiday last year. | c. _____ 1990. |
| d. _____ she was in college. | d. _____ a long time. |
| e. _____ more than a month. | e. _____ they began to work together. |
| f. _____ she got married. | f. _____ they met. |
| g. _____ she became famous. | g. _____ their entire adult lives. |

► **Practice 4. The present perfect.** (Chart 3-1)

Complete the sentences with the present perfect tense of the appropriate verb from the list. Use each verb only once. Include any words in parentheses.

✓ eat
improve

know
make

ride
start

sweep
swim

win
write

1. A: How about more pie?
B: No, but thanks. I can't swallow another bite. I (*already*) have already eaten too much.
2. Our football team is having a great season. They _____ all but one of their games so far this year and will probably win the championship.
3. Jane is expecting a letter from me, but I (*not*) _____ to her yet. Maybe I'll call her instead.
4. Jack is living in Spain now. His Spanish used to be terrible, but it _____ greatly since he moved there.
5. A: Let's hurry! I think the movie is beginning!
B: No, the movie (*not*) _____ yet. They're just showing previews of the coming attractions.
6. A: I hear your parents are coming to visit you. Is that why you're cleaning your apartment?
B: You guessed it! I (*already*) _____ the floor, but I still need to dust the furniture. Want to help?
7. A: I understand Tom is a good friend of yours? How long (*you*) _____ him?
B: Since we were kids.
8. Everyone makes mistakes in life. I _____ lots of mistakes in my life. The important thing is to learn from one's mistakes. Right?
9. A: I (*never*) _____ on the subways in New York City. Have you?
B: I've never even been to New York City.
10. A: (*you, ever*) _____ in the Atlantic Ocean?
B: No, only the Pacific — when I was in Hawaii. I even went snorkeling when I was there.

► **Practice 5. The present perfect with *since*, *for*, and *ago*.** (Chart 3-1)

Complete the sentences with the correct time expression.

1. Today is the 21st of April. I started this job on April 1st. I started this job three weeks ago. I have had this job since April 1st.
I have had this job for three weeks.
2. I made a New Year's resolution on January 1st: I will get up at 6:00 A.M. every day instead of 7:00 A.M. Today is March 1st, and I have gotten up every morning at 6:00 A.M. I made this resolution _____ ago. I have gotten up at 6:00 A.M. since _____.
I have gotten up at 6:00 A.M. for _____.
3. Today is February 28th. Valentine's Day was on February 14th. I sent my girlfriend some chocolates on Valentine's Day, and she phoned to say "Thank you." After that, I did not hear from her again. I have not heard from her for _____. I have not heard from her since _____.
4. Today is October 27th, 2009. Sue works for Senator Brown. She began to work for him right after she first met him in October, 2000. She began to work for Senator Brown _____ ago. Sue has worked for Senator Brown for _____.
She has worked for Senator Brown since _____.

► **Practice 6. The present perfect with *since* and *for*.** (Chart 3-1)

Rewrite the sentences using *since* and *for*.

1. We know Mrs. Jones. We met her last month.
 - a. for We have known Mrs. Jones for one month.
 - b. since _____
2. They live in New Zealand. They moved there in 2001.
 - a. for _____
 - b. since _____
3. I like foreign films. I liked them five years ago.
 - a. since _____
 - b. for _____
4. Jack works for a software company. He started working there last year.
 - a. for _____
 - b. since _____

► **Practice 7. Is vs. has.** (Chart 3-2)

In spoken English, *is* and *has* can both be contracted to *'s*. Decide if the verb in the contraction is *is* or *has*.

Spoken English

1. He's absent.
2. Sue's been a nurse for a long time.
3. Her brother's in the hospital.
4. He's not happy.
5. He's felt bad this past week.
6. Here is a newspaper. Take one. It's free.
7. The manager's taken some money.
8. Mira's taking a break.
9. Mira's taken a break.

Written English

is

► **Practice 8. The present perfect and the simple past.** (Chart 3-3)

Circle the correct verb.

1. Botswana (*became* / *has become*) an independent country in 1966.
2. Botswana (*was* / *has been*) an independent country for more than 40 years.
3. It's raining. It (*was* / *has been*) raining since noon today.
4. It's raining. It's the rainy season. It (*rained* / *has rained*) every day since the first of the month.
5. I grew up in Scotland until I moved to Argentina with my family. I was 12 then. Now I am 21. I (*lived* / *have lived*) in Scotland for 12 years.
6. Now I live in Argentina. I (*lived* / *have lived*) in Argentina for 9 years.
7. Claude and Pierre worked together at the French restaurant for 30 years. They retired three years ago. They (*worked* / *have worked*) together for 30 years.
8. Claude and Pierre (*didn't work* / *haven't worked*) for the last three years.

► **Practice 9. The present perfect and the simple past.** (Chart 3-3)

Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in parentheses.

1. (*know*) I knew Tim when he was a child, but I haven't seen him for many years. I have known Larry, my best friend, for more than 20 years.
2. (*agree*) The company and the union finally _____ on salary raises two days ago. Since then, they _____ on everything, and the rest of the negotiations have gone smoothly.
3. (*take*) Mark _____ a trip to Asia last October. He _____ many trips to Asia since he started his own import-export business.
4. (*play*) Ivan _____ the violin at several concerts with the London Symphony since 1990. Last year he _____ Beethoven's violin concerto at one of the

5. (*write*) When she was in college, Julia _____ emails to her parents a few times a week. Now she has a job and is living in Chicago. In the last six months she _____ only three emails to her parents.
6. (*send*) Our university _____ 121 students to study in other countries last year. In total, we _____ 864 students abroad over the last ten years.
7. (*fly*) Masaru is a pilot for JAL. He _____ nearly 8 million miles during the last 22 years. Last year he _____ 380,000 miles.
8. (*oversleep*) Mark missed his physics examination this morning because he _____. He _____ a lot since the beginning of the semester. He'd better buy a new alarm clock.

► Practice 10. The present perfect and the present perfect progressive.

(Charts 3-1 and 3-4)

Circle the correct verb.

1. Sam and Judy began talking on the phone at 9:00 P.M. Now it is 11:00 P.M., and they are still talking. They (*have talked* / *have been talking*) for two hours.
2. Sam and Judy speak to each other on the phone several times a day. They are speaking on the phone now, and they might speak again later. Today they (*have spoken* / *have been speaking*) to each other on the phone at least seven times.
3. England (*has won* / *has been winning*) the World Cup only once since 1930.
4. How long (*have you sat* / *have you been sitting*) here in the sun? You look like burnt toast! You'd better get out of the sun.
5. The chair in the president's office is very special. Sixteen presidents (*have sat* / *have been sitting*) in it.

► Practice 11. The present perfect and the present perfect progressive.

(Charts 3-1 and 3-4)

Complete the sentences. Write either the present perfect or the present perfect progressive of the verbs in parentheses.

1. The children are at the park. They (*play*) have been playing ball for the last two hours, but they don't seem tired yet.
2. Jim (*play*) has played soccer only a couple of times, so he's not very good at it. He's much better at tennis.
3. Karl (*raise*) _____ three children to adulthood. Now they are educated and working in productive careers.
4. Sally is falling asleep at her desk. Dr. Wu (*lecture*) _____ since ten o'clock, and it's now past noon.
5. Jenna is a law student. Ever since she enrolled in law school, she (*miss, never*) _____ a class due to illness.

6. Tim (*sleep*) _____ in the downstairs bedroom only once. He usually sleeps upstairs in the bedroom he shares with his brother.
7. A: How much longer until we arrive at the Singapore airport?
B: Let me see. It's about 9:15. We (*fly*) _____ for almost six hours. We should be there in another couple of hours.
8. A: Janice (*sleep*) _____ for almost eleven hours. Don't you think we should wake her up?
B: I guess we probably should.
9. A: Is the rescue crew still looking for survivors of the plane crash?
B: Yes, they (*search*) _____ the area for hours, but they haven't found anybody else. They'll keep searching until nightfall.

► Practice 12. The present perfect and the present perfect progressive.

(Charts 3-1 and 3-4)

Write the present perfect or the present perfect progressive of the verbs in the list. Use each verb only once. Include any words in parentheses.

cook	hear	paint	stand	✓ understand
grow	meet	spend	travel	want

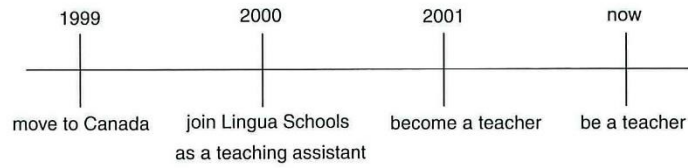
- Bill and Mike have never gotten along with each other. I (*never*) have never understood why they agreed to be roommates in the first place.
- Al just introduced me to his sister. Now I _____ everyone in his family.
- Ms. Erickson is a salesclerk in a large department store. It's almost closing time. Her feet hurt, as they do every day, because she _____ at the sales counter since eight o'clock this morning.
- My uncle _____ the outside of his house for three weeks, and he's still not finished. He's being very careful. He wants his house to look just right.
- I'm surprised that George apologized for what he said. As far as I can remember, I (*never*) _____ him say "I'm sorry" before.
- The Smiths are presently in Tunisia. They _____ throughout North Africa since the middle of May. They'll return home in another month.
- My brother's daughter _____ nearly six inches (15 cm) since I last saw her two years ago.
- I have always _____ to travel abroad. Now the company I work for is going to send me on a sales trip to several countries.

9. A: How much money do you have to buy clothes with?
 B: Sixty dollars.
 A: I thought you had a hundred dollars.
 B: I did. But I (*already*) _____ forty.
10. A: Isn't the rice ready to eat yet? It _____ for over an hour,
 hasn't it? Are you sure you know how to cook rice?
 B: Of course I do! I've been watching the chefs on the cooking shows for years!

► **Practice 13. Simple past vs. the present perfect progressive.** (Charts 2-7 and 3-4)

Look at the information about Janet and write sentences with the given words. Use the simple past or present perfect progressive as necessary.

In 1998, Janet received her English teaching degree. Here is what happened to Janet after that:



1. (move to Canada) _____ *In 1999, Janet moved to Canada.*
2. (join Lingua Schools) _____
3. (live in Canada) _____
4. (be a teacher) _____
5. (teach her own class) _____
6. (work at Lingua Schools) _____

CHAPTER 3: PERFECT AND PERFECT PROGRESSIVE TENSES

PRACTICE 1, p. 26

Part I.

1. has been ... has remained ... have estimated
2. has been increasing ... have been growing
3. had been ... had dropped
4. were
5. will be

Part II.

1. F 4. F
2. F 5. T
3. T

PRACTICE 2, p. 27

1. eaten 6. worn
2. visited 7. taken
3. worked 8. gone
4. liked 9. ridden
5. known 10. been

PRACTICE 3, p. 27

1. a. for 2. a. since
- b. for b. for
- c. since c. since
- d. since d. for
- e. for e. since
- f. since f. since
- g. since g. for

PRACTICE 4, p. 28

1. have already eaten
2. have won
3. have not written
4. has improved
5. has not started
6. have already swept
7. have you known
8. have made
9. have never ridden
10. Have you ever swum

PRACTICE 5, p. 29

1. the 21st of April ... three weeks ... April 1st ... three weeks
2. two months ago ... January 1st ... two months
3. two weeks ... February 14th
4. nine years ... nine years ... October, 2000

PRACTICE 6, p. 29

Answers will vary.

1. a. We have known Mrs. Jones for one month.
 b. We have known Mrs. Jones since last month.
2. a. They have lived there for (____) years.
 b. They have lived there since 2001.
3. a. I have liked foreign films since 200(____).
 b. I have liked foreign films for five years.
4. a. Jack has worked for a software company for one year.
 b. Jack has worked for a software company since last year.

PRACTICE 7, p. 30

1. is 6. is
2. has 7. has
3. is 8. is
4. is 9. has
5. has

PRACTICE 8, p. 30

1. became 5. lived
2. has been 6. have lived
3. has been 7. worked
4. has rained 8. haven't worked

PRACTICE 9, p. 30

1. knew ... have known
2. agreed ... have agreed
3. took ... has taken
4. has played ... played
5. wrote ... has written
6. sent ... have sent
7. has flown ... flew
8. overslept ... has overslept

PRACTICE 10, p. 31

1. have been talking 4. have you been sitting
2. have spoken 5. have sat
3. has won

PRACTICE 11, p. 31

1. have been playing 6. has slept
2. has played 7. have been flying
3. has raised 8. has been sleeping
4. has been lecturing 9. have been searching
5. has never missed

PRACTICE 12, p. 32

1. have never understood 6. have been traveling
2. have met 7. has grown
3. has been standing 8. wanted
4. has been painting 9. have already spent
5. have never heard 10. has been cooking

PRACTICE 13, p. 33

Sample answers

1. In 1999, Janet moved to Canada.
2. In 2000, Janet joined Lingua Schools as a teaching assistant.
3. Janet has been living / has lived in Canada since 1999.
4. Janet has been a teacher since 2001.
5. Janet has been teaching / has taught her own class since 2001.
6. Janet has been working / has worked at Lingua Schools since 2000.

PRACTICE 14, p. 33

1. We had driven only two miles = 1
 we got a flat tire = 2
2. Alan told me = 2
 he had written a book = 1
3. we arrived at the airport = 2
 the plane had already left = 1
4. The dog had eaten the entire roast = 1
 anyone knew it was gone = 2