

*Present and past*

- 1 Present continuous (I am doing)
- 2 Present simple (I do)
- 3 Present continuous and present simple 1 (I am doing and I do)
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*Present perfect and past*

- 7 Present perfect 1 (I have done)
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- 9 Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)
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- 11 How long have you (been) ... ?
- 12 For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?
- 13 Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)
- 14 Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

# 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 yet:

- 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) Hello, Jane. Are you enjoying the party? (*not* Do you enjoy)
- What's all that noise? What's going on? (= What's happening?)

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

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



I'm reading a really good book at the moment.  
It's about a man who ...

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)

## 1.1 Complete the sentences with the following verbs in the correct form:

get happen look lose make start stay try ~~work~~

- 1 'You 're working hard today.' 'Yes, I have a lot to do.'
- 2 I ..... for Christine. Do you know where she is?
- 3 It ..... dark. Shall I turn on the light?
- 4 They don't have anywhere to live at the moment. They ..... with friends until they find somewhere.
- 5 Things are not so good at work. The company ..... money.
- 6 Have you got an umbrella? It ..... to rain.
- 7 You ..... a lot of noise. Can you be quieter? I ..... to concentrate.
- 8 Why are all these people here? What ..... ?

## 1.2 Put the verb into the correct form. Sometimes you need the negative (I'm not doing etc.).

- 1 Please don't make so much noise. I 'm trying ..... (try) to work.
- 2 Let's go out now. It isn't raining ..... (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) German.
- 7 Paul and Sally have had an argument. They ..... (speak) to each other.
- 8 I ..... (get) tired. I need a rest.
- 9 Tim ..... (work) this week. He's on holiday.

## 1.3 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, Liz. How ..... in your new job? (you / get on)  
B: Not bad. It wasn't so good at first, but ..... better now. (things / get)  
A: What about Jonathan? Is he OK?  
B: Yes, but ..... his work at the moment. (he / not / enjoy)  
He's been in the same job for a long time and ..... to get bored with it. (he / begin)

## 1.4 Complete the sentences using the following verbs:

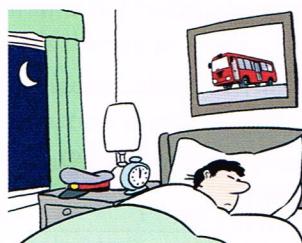
begin change get ~~increase~~ rise

- 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)

**A**

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

## 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 computer, but I ..... (not / use) it much.
- 4 'Where ..... (Martin / come) from?' 'He's Scottish.'
- 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 Liz questions about herself and her family. Write the questions.

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

## 2.5 Complete using the following:

I apologise I insist I promise I recommend I suggest

- 1 It's a nice day. ..... **I suggest** we go out for a walk.
- 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		
<i>past</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>future</i>

- The water is boiling. Can you turn it off?
- Listen to those people. What language are they speaking?
- Let's go out. It isn't raining now.
- 'I'm busy.' 'What are you doing?'
- I'm getting hungry. Let's go and eat.
- Kate wants to work in Italy, so she's learning Italian.
- 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		
<i>past</i>	<i>now</i>	<i>future</i>

- Water boils at 100 degrees Celsius.
- Excuse me, do you speak English?
- It doesn't rain very much in summer.
- What do you usually do at weekends?
- I always get hungry in the afternoon.
- Most people learn to swim when they are children.
- 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.
- John 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've lost my pen again. I'm always losing things.

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

Two more examples:

- You're always watching television. You should do something more active.  
(= You watch television too often)
- Tim is never satisfied. He's always complaining. (= He complains too much)

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

- 1 Let's go out. It ..... isn't raining ..... (not / rain) now.
- 2 Julia is very good at languages. She ..... speaks ..... (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 London at the moment. She ..... (stay) at the Park Hotel.  
She always ..... (stay) there when she's in London.
- 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 pen again.  
B: Not again! ..... You're always losing your pen .....
- 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	love	hate	want	need	prefer
know	realise	suppose	mean	understand	believe
belong	fit	contain	consist	seem	

- I'm hungry. I want something to eat. (*not* I'm wanting)
- Do you understand what I mean?
- Ann 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 about 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

## 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)

## D

## 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?

## E

## 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)

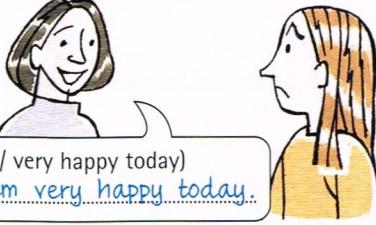
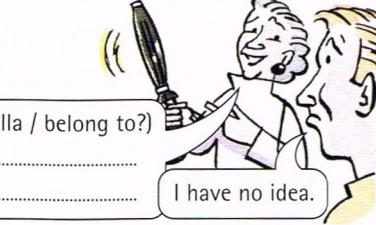
## 4.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Nicky is thinking of giving up her job.
- 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?

OK .....

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

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

 <p>(you / not / seem / very happy today) <u>You don't seem very happy today.</u></p>	 <p>(what / you / do?) Be quiet! (I / think)</p>
 <p>(who / this umbrella / belong to?) ..... ..... I have no idea.</p>	 <p>(the dinner / smell / good) .....</p>
 <p>Excuse me. (anybody / sit / there?) ..... ..... No, it's free.</p>	 <p>(these gloves / not / fit / me) ..... ..... They're too small.</p>

## 4.3 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.

## 4.4 Complete the sentences using the most suitable form of be. Sometimes you must use the simple (am/is/are) and sometimes the continuous is more suitable (am/is/are being).

- 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 Debbie 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/start/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 examination 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 Rose 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.          |

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

C

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

I	enjoyed	did	you	enjoy?	I	she	didn't	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 her to the party, so she didn't go.
- 'Did you have time to write the letter?' '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?

## 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 ..... home.
- 3 She ..... . 9 ..... a meal yesterday evening.
- 4 It ..... to get to work. 10 ..... out yesterday evening.
- 5 ..... at 8.45. 11 ..... at 11 o'clock.
- 6 ..... lunch. 12 ..... 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 ..... more than 600 pieces of music.
- 2 'How did you learn to drive?' 'My father ..... me.'
- 3 We couldn't afford to keep our car, so we ..... it.
- 4 Dave ..... down the stairs this morning and ..... his leg.
- 5 Jim ..... the ball to Sue, who ..... it.
- 6 Ann ..... a lot of money yesterday. She ..... 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 ..... ?  
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 ..... ?  
Two weeks.
- 4 Where ..... ? In hotels?  
Yes, small hotels or motels.
- 5 ..... ?  
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 ..... off my coat. (take)
- 2 The film wasn't very good. I ..... it very much. (enjoy)
- 3 I knew Sarah was very busy, so I ..... her. (disturb)
- 4 I was very tired, so I ..... the party early. (leave)
- 5 The bed was very uncomfortable. I ..... very well. (sleep)
- 6 The window was open and a bird ..... into the room. (fly)
- 7 The hotel wasn't very expensive. It ..... very much. (cost)
- 8 I was in a hurry, so I ..... time to phone you. (have)
- 9 It was hard carrying the bags. They ..... very heavy. (be)

# Past continuous (I was doing)

A

Study this example situation:



Yesterday Karen and Jim played tennis. They began at 10 o'clock and finished at 11.30.

So, at 10.30 they **were playing** tennis.

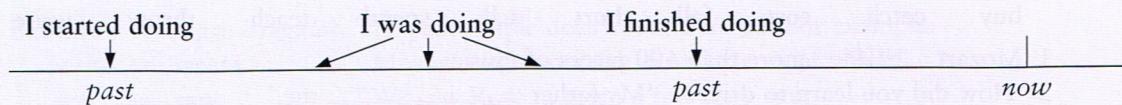
**They were playing** = they were in the middle of playing. They had not finished playing.

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

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



- This time last year I **was living** in Brazil.
- What **were you doing** at 10 o'clock last night?
- I waved to Helen, but she **wasn't looking**.

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 Dave.  
(in the middle of an action)
- Kate **was watching** television 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** Dave. 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)

E

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**)

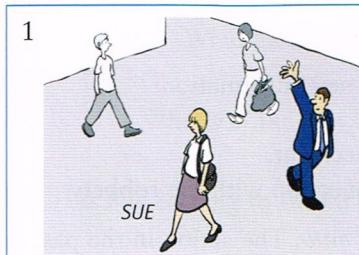
- 6.1 What were you doing at these times? Write sentences as in the examples. The past continuous is not always necessary (see the second example).

- 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 We saw an accident while we .
- 4 Ann fell asleep while she .
- 5 The television was on, but nobody .

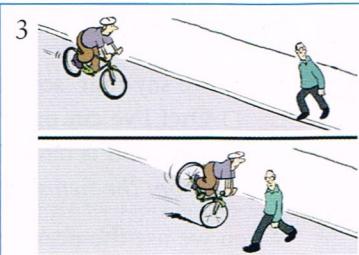
- 6.3 Put the verb into the correct form, past continuous or past simple.



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 ..... (you / drive) when the accident ..... (happen)?
- 5 Sam ..... (take) a photograph 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 ..... (see) him, he ..... (try) to find a job.
- 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 <b>have</b> (= I've etc.)	finished lost done been etc.
he/she/it <b>has</b> (= he's 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**.

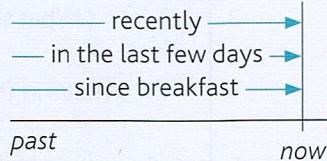
Been (to) = visited:

- 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**.



recently →  
in the last few days →  
since breakfast →  
now

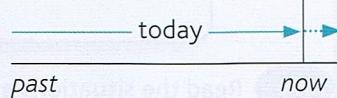
past

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**.



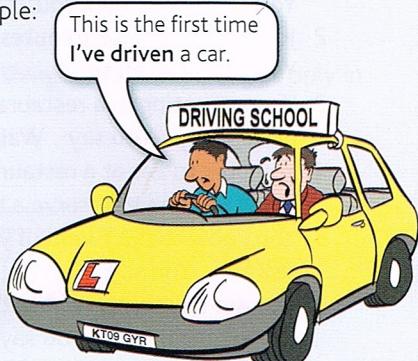
past

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	travelled by bus	eaten any fruit
been to the cinema	read a book	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 waiting playing etc.
he/she/it has (= he's 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.

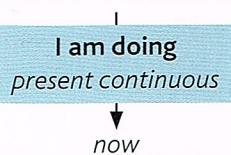
- How long have you been learning English?** (= you're still learning English)
- Tim is still watching TV. **He's been watching TV all day.**
- Where have you been? I've been looking for you **for the last half hour**.
- Chris **hasn't been feeling well recently**.

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

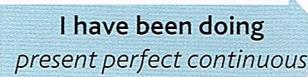
- Silvia is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing since she was eight.**
- Every morning they meet in the same cafe. They've been going there **for years**.

C

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



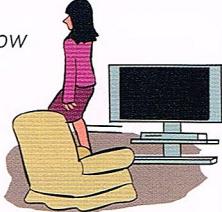
- Don't disturb me now. I'm working.
- We need an umbrella. It's raining.
- Hurry up! We're waiting.



- 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?

<b>1</b>  <b>earlier</b>	<b>now</b> 	<b>2</b>  <b>earlier</b>	<b>now</b> 
<p>They ..... 've been shopping.</p>		<p>She .....</p>	
<b>3</b>  <b>earlier</b>	<b>now</b> 	<b>4</b>  <b>earlier</b>	<b>now</b> 
<p>They .....</p>		<p>He .....</p>	

## 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 ..... 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).'.
- 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) ... ?

**A**

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)  
(not 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?  
Have you **known** each other **for a long time**?  
(not Do you know)
- but She's **waiting** for somebody.  
She's **been waiting** all morning.
- Do they **have** a car?  
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 / 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

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---



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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?

- 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**)

B

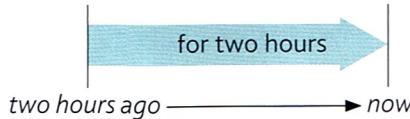
## For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

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**.

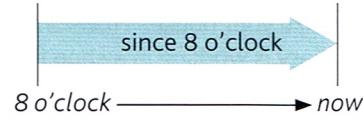


<b>for</b>		
two hours	20 minutes	five days
a long time	six months	50 years
a week	ages	years

- 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**.



<b>since</b>		
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.):

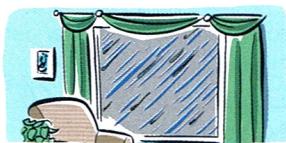
- I've lived here **all my life**. (not for all my life)

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:

<b>It's</b> (= It is) <b>or It's been</b> (= It has been)	<b>a long time</b> <b>six months</b> (etc.)	<b>since something happened</b>
--	--	---------------------------------

- 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) No, .....

## 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

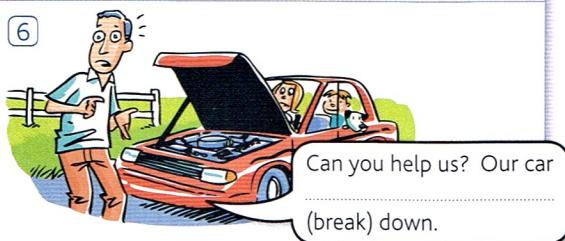
We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- 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.



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.

OK

grew

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.

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**?

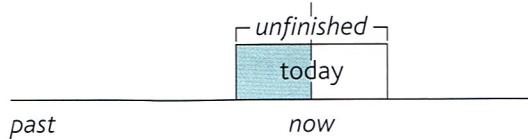
B

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**.



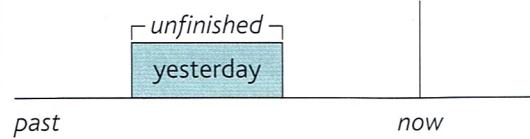
- It **hasn't rained** **this week**.
- Have you **seen** Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning)
- Have you **seen** Tim **recently**?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've been **waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives 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 simple (did)*

- I **did** a lot of work **yesterday**.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example:

**yesterday / last week / from 2007 to 2010.**



- 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. ..... OK
- 2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child? ..... Did you eat
- 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? .....

**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) .....

## 1.4 List of irregular verbs

<i>infinitive</i>	<i>past simple</i>	<i>past participle</i>
<b>be</b>	was/were	been
<b>beat</b>	beat	beaten
<b>become</b>	became	become
<b>begin</b>	began	begun
<b>bend</b>	bent	bent
<b>bet</b>	bet	bet
<b>bite</b>	bit	bitten
<b>blow</b>	blew	blown
<b>break</b>	broke	broken
<b>bring</b>	brought	brought
<b>broadcast</b>	broadcast	broadcast
<b>build</b>	built	built
<b>burst</b>	burst	burst
<b>buy</b>	bought	bought
<b>catch</b>	caught	caught
<b>choose</b>	chose	chosen
<b>come</b>	came	come
<b>cost</b>	cost	cost
<b>creep</b>	crept	crept
<b>cut</b>	cut	cut
<b>deal</b>	dealt	dealt
<b>dig</b>	dug	dug
<b>do</b>	did	done
<b>draw</b>	drew	drawn
<b>drink</b>	drank	drunk
<b>drive</b>	drove	driven
<b>eat</b>	ate	eaten
<b>fall</b>	fell	fallen
<b>feed</b>	fed	fed
<b>feel</b>	felt	felt
<b>fight</b>	fought	fought
<b>find</b>	found	found
<b>flee</b>	fled	fled
<b>fly</b>	flew	flown
<b>forbid</b>	forbade	forbidden
<b>forget</b>	forgot	forgotten
<b>forgive</b>	forgave	forgiven
<b>freeze</b>	froze	frozen
<b>get</b>	got	got
<b>give</b>	gave	given
<b>go</b>	went	gone
<b>grow</b>	grew	grown
<b>hang</b>	hung	hung
<b>have</b>	had	had
<b>hear</b>	heard	heard
<b>hide</b>	hid	hidden
<b>hit</b>	hit	hit
<b>hold</b>	held	held
<b>hurt</b>	hurt	hurt
<b>keep</b>	kept	kept
<b>kneel</b>	knelt	knelt
<b>know</b>	knew	known
<b>lay</b>	laid	laid
<b>lead</b>	led	led
<b>leave</b>	left	left
<b>lend</b>	lent	lent
<b>let</b>	let	let
<b>lie</b>	lay	lain

<i>infinitive</i>	<i>past simple</i>	<i>past participle</i>
<b>light</b>	lit	lit
<b>lose</b>	lost	lost
<b>make</b>	made	made
<b>mean</b>	meant	meant
<b>meet</b>	met	met
<b>pay</b>	paid	paid
<b>put</b>	put	put
<b>read</b>	read [red]*	read [red]*
<b>ride</b>	rode	ridden
<b>ring</b>	rang	rung
<b>rise</b>	rose	risen
<b>run</b>	ran	run
<b>say</b>	said	said
<b>see</b>	saw	seen
<b>seek</b>	sought	sought
<b>sell</b>	sold	sold
<b>send</b>	sent	sent
<b>set</b>	set	set
<b>sew</b>	sewed	sewn/sewed
<b>shake</b>	shook	shaken
<b>shine</b>	shone	shone
<b>shoot</b>	shot	shot
<b>show</b>	Showed	shown/showed
<b>shrink</b>	shrank	shrunk
<b>shut</b>	shut	shut
<b>sing</b>	sang	sung
<b>sink</b>	sank	sunk
<b>sit</b>	sat	sat
<b>sleep</b>	slept	slept
<b>slide</b>	slid	slid
<b>speak</b>	spoke	spoken
<b>spend</b>	spent	spent
<b>spit</b>	spat	spat
<b>split</b>	split	split
<b>spread</b>	spread	spread
<b>spring</b>	sprang	sprung
<b>stand</b>	stood	stood
<b>steal</b>	stole	stolen
<b>stick</b>	stuck	stuck
<b>sting</b>	stung	stung
<b>stink</b>	stank	stunk
<b>strike</b>	struck	struck
<b>swear</b>	swore	sworn
<b>sweep</b>	swept	swept
<b>swim</b>	swam	swum
<b>swing</b>	swung	swung
<b>take</b>	took	taken
<b>teach</b>	taught	taught
<b>tear</b>	tore	torn
<b>tell</b>	told	told
<b>think</b>	thought	thought
<b>throw</b>	threw	thrown
<b>understand</b>	understood	understood
<b>wake</b>	woke	woken
<b>wear</b>	wore	worn
<b>weep</b>	wept	wept
<b>win</b>	won	won
<b>write</b>	wrote	written

\* pronunciation