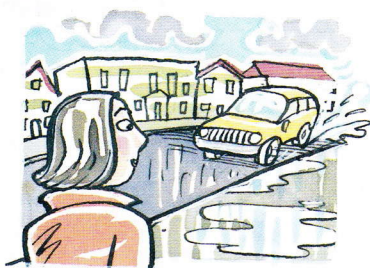


# Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

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 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 television. He's **been watching** television 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:

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

C

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

I am doing  
*present continuous*

*now*

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

I have been doing  
*present perfect continuous*

*now*




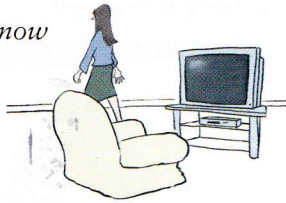
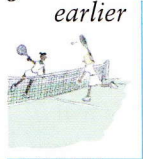



- ☐ I've **been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. It's **been raining**.
- ☐ We've **been waiting** for an hour.



## Exercises

## Unit 9

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

<p>1</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>earlier</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p>  </div> </div> <p>They <u>'ve been shopping.</u></p>	<p>2</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>earlier</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p>  </div> </div> <p>She .....</p>
<p>3</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>earlier</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p>  </div> </div> <p>They .....</p>	<p>4</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>earlier</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>now</p>  </div> </div> <p>He .....</p>

### 9.2 Write a question for each situation.

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

### 9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.  
It 's been raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.  
We ..... for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.  
I ..... since December.
- Mary is working in London. She started working there on 18 January.  
..... since 18 January.
- 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).

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