

The Present Perfect Continuous

GRAMMAR

1. FORM:

a I, YOU, WE, THEY HAVE BEEN + V-ING
as in *We have been talking...*

b HE, SHE, IT HAS BEEN V-ING
as in *It has been snowing ...*

AFFIRMATIVE, NEGATIVE, INTERROGATIVE:

We have been waiting for her for two hours.
You haven't been doing anything lately!
Have you been working out? You're so fit!
How long have we been waiting for her?
What has she been doing?

2. USAGE:

a This verb tense stresses the duration of the action. Prepositions since and for can be used.

She has been playing in the garden for hours.
(she's still there)

b It's also used to describe a long action that began in the past and has just stopped. The result of the action is clear or implied.
It has been raining. The ground is still wet.

c. We can also use it to talk about something that has been in progress recently or lately.

You look wonderful! Have you been working out lately?

Have you been smoking recently? I can smell cigarette smoke here!

You haven't been taking things seriously lately.

PRACTICE

Complete the dialogues between a writer and a reporter using the Present Perfect Continuous and the necessary prepositions:



R: How long _____
_____ (you- write) books?¹
W: _____²
them _____³ five years...



R: How long _____
_____ in Africa?⁴
W: I _____⁵ (live) in Africa
_____⁶1998.



R: How long _____
_____⁷ (your guide -work) with you?
W: He _____
_____⁸ (work) with me _____⁹two years.



R: What else _____
_____ (you-do) in Africa?¹⁰
W: I _____
(take)¹¹ photos for my guidebook.
R: How long _____
(travel)¹² around Kenya?



W: _____
¹³ (I - travel) _____¹⁴ 6 a.m.
R: _____
¹⁵ (you-walk) around Kenya?
W: I _____
(drive)¹⁶ and _____ (walk)¹⁷



R: _____
(you - ride)¹⁸ elephants too?
W: No, I _____¹⁹. But I _____
_____ (send)²⁰ photos of
elephants and many other animals to
some magazines. I've sold most of my
photos. I _____
(think)²¹ of becoming a full time
photographer.



R: _____
_____²² (I-consider) changing my
job _____²³ two years!

KEY

1. Have you been writing
2. I've been writing
3. For
4. Have you been living
5. 've been living
6. since
7. has your guide been working
8. 's been working
9. for
10. have you been doing
11. 've been taking
12. have you been travelling
13. I've been travelling
14. since
15. Have you been walking
16. 've been driving
17. walking
18. Have you been riding
19. haven't
20. 've been sending
21. 've been talking
22. I've been considering
23. for

