

## present perfect simple and continuous

present perfect simple: *have / has + past participle*

- 1 **Have** you ever **written** a blog? (1 37))
- 2 We've just **landed** but we **haven't got off** the plane yet.  
I've already **told** you three times.
- 3 It's the best book I've ever **read**.
- 4 My computer's **crashed**! Look, it's **started** snowing.
- 5 I've **known** Miriam since I was a child.  
My sister **has had** flu for ten days now.
- 6 How many Agatha Christie novels **have** you **read**?  
**They've seen** each other twice this week.

We use the present perfect simple:

- 1 to talk about past experiences when you don't say when something happened.
- 2 with *just*, *yet*, and *already*.
- 3 with superlatives and *the first*, *second*, *last time*, etc.
- 4 for finished actions (when no time is specified) which have present results.
- 5 with non-action verbs (= verbs not usually used in the continuous form, e.g. *be*, *have*, *know*, *like*, etc.) to say that something started in the past and is still true now.
  - This use is common with time expressions like *How long...?*, *for* or *since*, *all day* | *evening*, etc.
  - Don't use the present simple or continuous in this situation: NOT *I know Miriam since I was a child*.
- 6 when we say or ask *how much* | *many* we have done or *how often* we have done something up to now.

present perfect continuous: *have / has + been + verb + -ing*

- 1 How long **have** you **been feeling** ill? (1 38))  
He's **been chatting** online all evening.
- 2 I **haven't been sleeping** well. It's **been raining** all day.
- 3 I've **been shopping** all morning. I'm exhausted.  
A Take your shoes off. They're filthy.  
B Yes, I know. I've **been working** in the garden.

a Circle the correct form of the verb. Tick (✓) if both are possible.

Have you ever tried / *been trying* caviar?

- 1 She's *worked* / *been working* here since July.
- 2 Your mother has *phoned* / *been phoning* three times this morning!
- 3 The kids are exhausted because they've *run* / *been running* around all day.
- 4 Tim and Lucy haven't *seen* / *been seeing* our new house.
- 5 I've never *met* / *been meeting* her boyfriend. Have you?
- 6 It's *rained* / *been raining* all morning.
- 7 Bill has just *gone* / *been going* to work. He won't be back till this evening.
- 8 My sister has *lived* / *been living* alone since her divorce.

We use the present perfect continuous:

- 1 with action verbs, to say that an action started in the past and is still happening now.
  - This use is common with time expressions like *How long...?*, *for* or *since*, *all day* | *evening*, etc.
  - Don't use the present simple or continuous in this situation.  
NOT *I know Miriam since I was a child*.
- 2 for repeated actions, especially with a time expression, e.g. *all day*, *recently*.
- 3 for continuous actions which have just finished (but which have present results).

- 1 I've **been learning** French for the last three years. He's **liked** classical music since he was a teenager. (1 39))
- 2 She's **been having** piano lessons since she was a child. They've **had** that car for at least ten years.
- 3 We've **lived** in this town since 1980. We've **been living** in a rented flat for the last two months.
- 4 I've **painted** the kitchen. I've **been painting** the kitchen.

- 1 To talk about an unfinished action we normally use the present perfect continuous with action verbs and the present perfect simple with non-action verbs.
- 2 Some verbs can be action or non-action depending on their meaning, e.g. *have piano lessons* = action, *have a car* = non-action.
- 3 With the verbs *live* or *work* you can often use the present perfect simple or continuous. However, we normally use the present perfect continuous for shorter, more temporary actions.
- 4 The present perfect simple emphasizes the completion of an action (= the kitchen has been painted). The present perfect continuous emphasizes the duration of an action, which may or may not be finished (= the painting of the kitchen may not be finished yet).

b Complete the sentence with the best form of the verb in brackets, present perfect simple or continuous.

I've bought a new car. Do you like it? (buy)

- 1 We \_\_\_\_\_ Jack and Ann for years. (know)
- 2 You look really hot. \_\_\_\_\_ at the gym? (you / work out)
- 3 Emily \_\_\_\_\_ her homework yet, so I'm afraid she can't go out. (not do)
- 4 They don't live in London, they \_\_\_\_\_. (move)
- 5 I \_\_\_\_\_ time to cook anything. (not have)
- 6 We \_\_\_\_\_ for hours. Is this the right way? (walk)
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ my diary again? (read)
- 8 Oh no! I \_\_\_\_\_ my finger on this knife. (cut)