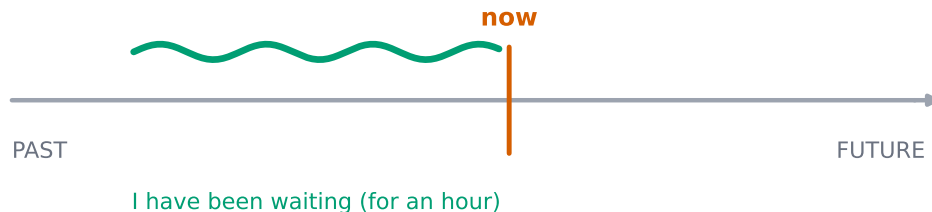


Present perfect continuous

English Grammar · B1

Structure (have/has + been + V-ing)

Present perfect continuous - duration up to now



Present perfect continuous: duration up to now: tense timeline

The Present Perfect Continuous emphasizes an action that **started in the past and continues up to the present**, and often implies it is still ongoing.

Structure: + have / has + been + -ing

I have been waiting for an hour.

I have been waiting for an hour. (May still be waiting)

It has been raining all day.

It has been raining all day.

Note: Negative form: *haven't / hasn't been + V-ing*. Question form: *Have / Has + subject + been + V-ing?*

Continuing Until Now

This tense focuses on the **ongoing process** and **duration**, and is frequently used with **for** and **since**:

- **For** + duration: *for two hours*.
- **Since** + starting point: *since this morning*.

She has been studying since nine.

She has been studying since nine o'clock.

Difference from Present Perfect:

- Present Perfect Continuous: Emphasizes the **process** / **duration** (I have been reading —).
- Present Perfect: Emphasizes the **result** / **completion** (I have read it —).

Note: Stative verbs (*know, like, be*) generally **do not** use the continuous form: ~I have been knowing~ × → I have known ✓.

Common Errors

- × ~I am waiting for an hour.~ → ✓ I **have been waiting** for an hour. — To express “waiting for an hour and still waiting,” the Present Perfect Continuous must be used; the Present Continuous cannot indicate how long something has already lasted.
- × ~How long are you living here?~ → ✓ How long **have you been living** here? — *How long* asks about duration, so it pairs with the Perfect (Continuous) tense.
- × ~She has been finished her essay.~ → ✓ She **has finished** her essay. — For active voice, simply use *has/have + past participle* (*has finished*); do not add *been*. *Been* is used in the continuous form (*has been studying*) or passive voice (*Her essay has been finished*, without an object), but never in an active perfect tense with an object.
- × ~I have been reading three books this week.~ → ✓ I **have read** three books this week. — To report a “completed quantity,” use the Present Perfect; the continuous form only emphasizes the process, not the result.