



Presentation

The perfect aspect has three structures: present perfect, past perfect and future perfect. These can be combined with the continuous aspect to form present perfect continuous, past perfect continuous and future perfect continuous.

Present perfect simple

The present perfect looks back from now to actions or situations in the past that are in some way connected to the present. We use the present perfect simple:

- to talk about completed actions that are connected to the present: *The film has started.* (= it's on now)
- with time expressions that mean up to now, e.g. *today, this week: Have you spoken to Max this week?*

We also use the present perfect simple with *be*, *have*, *know* and other stative verbs to talk about unfinished actions and situations that continue until now: *We've known about the problem for a while.*

Present perfect continuous

We use the present perfect continuous:

- to talk about something that started in the past and is continuing now: *He's been talking on the phone for over an hour.*
- to talk about how we've been spending time recently: *Sorry, I haven't called. I've been working really hard.*

Past perfect simple

The past perfect looks back from a point in the past to an earlier event. We use the past perfect simple to talk about:

- single, completed events: *Somebody stole her car because she had left it unlocked.*
- repeated actions, when we give the number of times the action is repeated: *I'd looked at five guitars before I decided which one to buy.*

Past perfect continuous

We use the past perfect continuous to talk about how long an action, or series of actions, was in progress: *He was exhausted because he'd been travelling for 24 hours.*

Future perfect simple

We use the future perfect simple to talk about an action that is going to be completed at or before a given time in the future: *They'll have finished repairing the bridge by next week.*

Future perfect continuous

We use the future perfect continuous to talk about how long an action will have been in progress before a given time. It emphasises the fact that the action will take place over an extended period of time: *By the end of this year, I'll have been working here for 25 years.*

1 Complete the sentences using the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous form of the verbs. Use the present perfect continuous where possible.

- 1 The match started five minutes ago but no one (score) a goal yet.
- 2 How long you (know) each other?
- 3 You (play) that computer game for hours! Switch it off and do something else.
- 4 Sorry my phone was engaged, but I (talk) to a client in Switzerland all morning.
- 5 He (have) this car for over ten years and it never goes wrong.
- 6 We (discuss) your offer with management and we've decided to accept it.
- 7 Sorry, I was stuck in traffic. you (wait) long?
- 8 Ever since Gill left the company, the office (not be) the same.

2 Read part of a story and choose the correct form of the verbs.

He knew something was wrong because she ¹*hadn't called / hadn't been calling* him last night. It's true that she ²*d told / 'd been telling* him that she'd be travelling abroad for a few weeks so they wouldn't be able to meet. Even so, why ³*hadn't she sent / hadn't she been sending* at least an email? After all, their friendship ⁴*had gone / had been going* really well for the last twelve months and they ⁵*d even planned / 'd even been planning* their wedding since May. So, why ⁶*had everything changed / had everything been changing* so suddenly?

3 Complete the sentences about the world in 2050 using the future perfect simple or future perfect continuous of the verbs in the box.

become do explore *grow* move reach replace use

By 2050 ...

- the world population ¹ *will have grown* to nine billion people.
- we ² the internet for over 50 years.
- the global temperature ³ warmer in most countries.
- humans ⁴ space for about one hundred years.
- humans ⁵ the planet Mars.
- most people ⁶ from the countryside to the city.
- robots ⁷ most of the routine jobs for the last thirty years.
- renewable energy ⁸ fossil fuels as the main type of energy.

4 Complete these sentences so that they are true for you using the perfect aspect in the simple or continuous form.

- 1 I've since I was a child.
- 2 Before I went to bed last night, I'd
- 3 By 2050, I'll