

- A: Have you seen this article about that fire in the stadium?
- B: Oh, yeah, we've just been talking about that. What does the newspaper say?
- A: Well, it seems that the police have been looking at the evidence again and they've taken the manager in for questioning.
- B: Really? They've questioned him three or four times already, haven't they?
- A: Yes, but this time it looks more serious. They've closed the stadium. There'll be no match on Saturday.

Presentation

You can use both the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous to talk about:

- recent past events and news stories.
*The police **have reopened** the case about the fire in the football stadium.*
*We've **just been talking** about the fire at the stadium.*
- a past event or action that has a present or future result.
*The police **have closed** the stadium.*
(Result: There'll be no match on Saturday.)
*They've **been looking** at the evidence again.*
(Result: They've closed the stadium.)

Use the present perfect simple to talk about a single, complete action:

*They've **taken** the manager in for questioning.*

Use the present perfect continuous to talk about an action, or series of actions, that was in progress in the recent past, but is no longer happening:

*The kids **have been playing** football. (= They are not playing football now.)*

You don't usually use stative verbs in the present perfect continuous:

*I've **known** the manager for several years. (don't say ~~I've been knowing~~ the manager for several years.)*

just

Use *just* to show that an action took place, or was in progress, recently. Use the present perfect simple to talk about a single, finished action: *I've **just finished**.*

Use the present perfect continuous to talk about an action that was in progress until recently: *I've **just been talking** to your mum on the phone.*

Quantity and duration

Use the present perfect simple to talk about a specific number of times you have done something in the past or the number of things you have produced or made:

*She's **been** to Paris **three times** in the last year.*

*He's **written** **five books**.*

*He's **had** **several different jobs**.*

TIP You often use the present perfect simple with expressions of quantity: *three books, four times, several jobs.*

Use the present perfect continuous to emphasise the duration of an action, or series of actions, in progress recently (we don't always know if the action is complete):

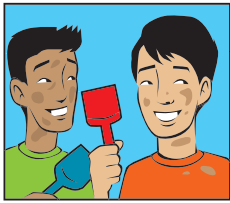
*The police **have been questioning** the manager **all day**.*

*I've **been working** at the computer **all morning**.*

*I've **been having** some strange dreams **recently**.*

TIP You often use the present perfect continuous with expressions of time such as *all morning, this week, over the last few months.*

1 Look at the pictures and write sentences using the present perfect continuous.



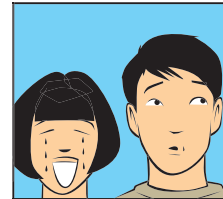
- 1 They / play / garden
They have been playing in the garden.



- 3 What / you / do?
.....



- 2 She / chop / onions
.....



- 4 you / hit / your sister?
.....

2 Choose the correct form of the verbs.

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| <p>1 A: Why isn't Sam here?
B: His car's <u>broken</u> / <i>been breaking</i> down.</p> <p>2 A: Why is the office such a mess?
B: We've <i>looked</i> / <i>been looking</i> for something.</p> <p>3 A: What's that smell?
B: I've <i>cooked</i> / <i>been cooking</i>.</p> | <p>4 A: Are you going to buy a cake for Dad?
B: No, Sue's <i>baked</i> / <i>been baking</i> one already.</p> <p>5 A: I need a cup of tea. I'm exhausted! I've <i>helped</i> / <i>been helping</i> Sue all day.
B: Here you are. Put your feet up and relax.</p> <p>6 A: Have you <i>finished</i> / <i>been finishing</i>?
B: Yes, we have. We can take it easy now.</p> |
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3 Look at the verbs in **bold**. Which should *not* be in the present perfect continuous? Where necessary, write the verbs in the present perfect simple.

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| <p>1 I've been working hard all morning. I'm taking a break. ✓</p> <p>2 I've been writing ten pages of the report.
X I've written</p> <p>3 They've been playing really well all season.
.....</p> | <p>4 They've been winning the last ten matches.
.....</p> <p>5 He's been making more than ten films in his short career.</p> <p>6 He's just been finishing filming a new documentary.</p> |
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4 Ⓞ Complete the conversation using the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Then listen and check.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A: 1 (you / hear) the news? Bill
2 (just / resign).</p> <p>B: No! You're kidding! Why?</p> <p>A: Well, he 3 (not get on) with the boss recently.</p> <p>B: Yes, I noticed they 4 (argue) quite a lot recently.</p> | <p>A: Yes, they 5 (have) two really big arguments in the last week. And he 6 (decide) that enough is enough. He 7 (quit) his job. He 8 (already / start) looking for a new one.</p> <p>B: Well, good luck to him, I say.</p> |
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