

Book: Passages 1

Level: 10th

Unit: 6

Objective: Using the present perfect and the present perfect continuous correctly.

PRESENT PERFECT vs. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

PRESENT PERFECT:
have/has + __(past participle)__



Use PRESENT PERFECT:
-for actions not happening now
-for actions already finished at this time

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS:
have/has + been + __(verb) ing__



Use PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS:
-for ONGOING actions
-for actions not finished at the moment
-for actions in the recent time period

PLEASE NOTE:

Sometimes it's possible to use words like **WORK, PLAY, STUDY, LIVE, TEACH, GIVE/TAKE (LESSONS)** in either tense with **no change in meaning**.

Compare: - Mr. Sanchez has taught English for 6 years.

- Mr. Sanchez has been teaching English for 6 years.

Present Perfect Continuous

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now. "For five minutes," "for two weeks," and "since Tuesday" are all **durations** which can be used with the Present Perfect Continuous.

You can also use the Present Perfect Continuous WITHOUT a duration such as "for two weeks." Without the duration, the tense has a more general meaning." We often use the words "**lately**" or "**recently**" to emphasize this meaning.

Remember that the Present Perfect Continuous has the meaning of "lately" or "recently." If you use the Present Perfect Continuous in a question such as "Have you been feeling alright?", it can suggest that the person looks sick or unhealthy. A question such as "Have you been smoking?" can suggest that you smell the smoke on the person. Using this tense in a question suggests you can see, smell, hear or feel the results of the action. It is possible to insult someone by using this tense incorrectly.

Present Perfect

We use the Present Perfect in many negative statements: with the adverbs *never, still, already, and yet*; and when stating the number of times an action has been repeated.

It is also generally used with stative (nonaction) verbs such as: *like, be, know, want, need, have, hate, prefer, love, own, mean, live, think, believe, feel, belong*.

Practice

- 1- I _____ (have) the same car for more than ten years. I'm thinking about buying a new one.
- 2- I _____ (love) chocolate since I was a child. You might even call me a "chocoholic."
- 3- Matt and Sarah _____ (have) some difficulties in their relationship lately, so they _____ (go) to a marriage counselor. I hope they work everything out.
- 4- John _____ (work) for the government since he graduated from Harvard University. Until recently, he _____ (enjoy) his work, but now he is talking about retiring.
- 5- Lately, I _____ (think) about changing my career because I _____ (become) dissatisfied with the conditions at my company.
- 6- I _____ (see) Judy for more than five years and during that time I have _____ (see) many changes in her personality.

