Unit 13

13.1 Present Perfect Continuous

Form

has/have + been + -ing (present participle)

Positive and negative

I We You They	've (have) haven't	been working.
He She It	's (has) hasn't	

Ouestion

How long	have	I we you they	been working?
	has	he she it	been working:

Short answer

Have you been running? Has he been shopping? Yes, I have./No, I haven't Yes, he has./No, he hasn'

Use

The Present Perfect Continuous is used:

1 to express an activity which began in the past and continues to the present.

We've been waiting here for hours! It's been raining for days.

2 to refer to an activity with a result in the present.

I'm hot because I've been running.

I haven't got any money because I've been shopping.

Note

Sometimes there is little or no difference in meaning between the Present Perfect Simple and Continuous.

How long have you worked here?

How long have you been working here?

2 Think of the verbs that have the idea of a long time, for example, wait, work, learn, travel, play.

These verbs can be found in the Present Perfect Continuous.

I've been playing tennis since I was a boy. Think of the verbs that don't have the idea of a long time, for example, find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop. It is unusual to find these verbs in the Present Perfect Continuous.

I've bought a new dress.

My uncle has died.

My radio's broken.

3 Verbs that express a state, for example, like, love, know, have for possession, are not found in the Present Perfect Continuous.

We've known each other for a few weeks.

NOT We've been knowing each other for a few weeks.

How long have you had your car?

NOT How long have you been having your car?

4 The Present Perfect Simple looks at the completed action. This is why, if the sentence gives a number or a quantity, the Present Perfect Simple is used. The Continuous is not possible.

I've written three letters today.

NOT I've been writing three letters today.





Earning a living

Present Perfect Continuous . Word formation . Adverbs . Telephoning



- 1 Ask and answer these questions.
- 2 Ask your teacher the same questions about teaching English.

How long have you been learning English?

When did you start?

STREET LIFE Present Perfect Continuous

- 1 Read Andy's story.
- 2 Match the questions a-f on p103 with the answers in the text.

Listen and check. Finish Andy's answer in question 4.

3 With a partner, cover the questions and practise the conversation. Then cover the answers, and practise again.

GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Which are the questions in the Present Perfect Continuous? What are the other tenses?
- 2 Look at these two questions.

How long have you been selling The Big Issue?

How many copies have you sold today?

Which question asks about the activity of selling?

Which question asks about the number of magazines sold?

- 3 Complete these sentences with the
 - Present Perfect Simple or Continuous.

 1 have been smoke) since I was 16.

 1 have been (smoke) five cigarettes today.

Grammar Reference 13.1 p142

ANDY'S STORY

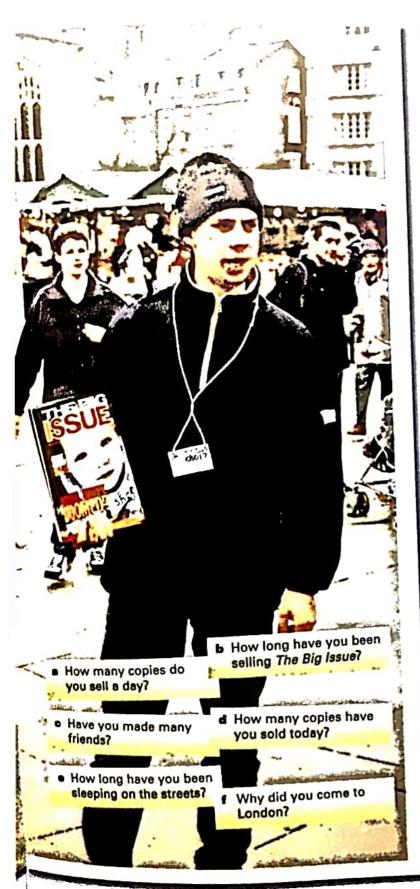
Andy, 28, from Scotland, used to have his own taxi business. When he lost it, he also lost his home and his family. He now sleeps on the streets in London. The Big Issue is a magazine sold by homeless people in Britain. This gives them a small income, so they can begin to find somewhere to live.



-	
•	was very cold
at first, but y it.	ou get used to
2 🖺	
	7
I came here t and I never le	o look for work, ift.
з 🛭	
For six month	s. I'm in
Covent Garde	n seven days a
week selling t	he magazine.

Usually about fifty.

So far, ten. But it's still early.



- 4 Make more questions about Andy.
 - How long/trying to find a job?
 - How many jobs/had?
 - How long/standing here today?
 - How/lose your business?
 - · Who/best friend?
 - · Where/meet him/her?
 - · How long/known each other?
 - Listen and check.
- 5 Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Invent Andy's answers.
 - Listen and compare your answers.

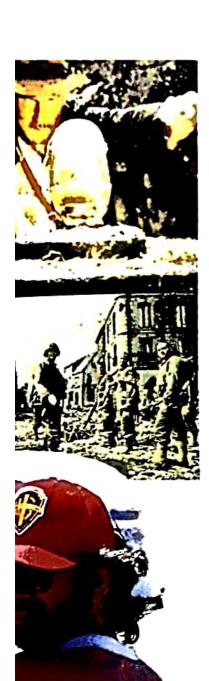
PRACTICE

Discussing grammar

- 1 Choose the correct tense.
 - 1 How long have you been living / do you live in Abu Dhabi?
 - Anna has been finding / has found a good job.
 - 3 My brother and 1 have gone / have been going to karate lessons for over six months.
 - 4 I bought / have bought a new flat a few months ago.
 - 5 How long have you had / have you been having your car?
 - 6 Tom worked / has been working as a policeman for the past month.
 - 7 I've written / 've been writing an essay all day.
 - 8 I've written / been writing six pages.

Talking about you

- 2 Put the verbs in the Present Perfect Simple or Continuous or the Past Simple.
 - 1 How long have you been (come) to this university?
 - 2 How long have you bee (use) this book?
 - 3 Which book dld you hav (have) before this one?
 - 4 How long have you know (know) your teacher?





VOCABULARY Word formation

1 These words appeared in the last few units. Complete the charts and mark the stress.

Noun	Verb
death	_dle
waste	wuste
belief	be'lieve
advicetiseme	advertise 'advertise
promise	promise
feeling	feel
ad'vice	advise
description	de'scribe
in'vention	invent
'government	govern

Noun	Adjective
death ,	dead
honesty	'honest
va'riety	veried
madness	mad
'mystery	mysterious
beauty	'beautiful
wealth	'wealthy
suc'cess	successful
comfort	'comfortable
peace	peaceful

- 2 Complete the sentences with a word from exercise 1.
 - 1 promise me that you'll phone when you arrive.
 - 2 He was taken to hospital by ambulance, but he was <u>dead</u> on arrival.
 - 3 'Are they wealthy?' 'Yes, they're millionaires.' 'Where does their money come from?' 'They have a very vevi d business.'
 - 4 I love the peace and quiet of the countryside.
 - 5 I saw an advert for a job as a waiter.
 - 6 The sofa was so comfor that I fell asleep.
 - 7 I gave the police a descritof the man who attacked me.
 - 8 I had a few problems, but Adam gave me some good advice
 - 9 I was sitting at home when suddenly I had a funny feeling that I wasn't alone.

Adverbs

Complete the sentences with the adverbs.

mainly possibly really nearly

- 1 'Are you going out?' 'possibly I don't know yet.'
- 2 The exam was really difficult. I couldn't do any of it.
- 3 'How old are you?' 'I'm nearly eight. It's my birthday next week.'
- 4 I travel a lot in my job, mainly to Europe.
- Complete the sentences with the adverbs.

seriously exactly carefully fluently

- 1 I used to speak French Pluently, but I've forgotten it now.
- 2 Please drive carefully. The roads are so dangerous.
- 3 I have gootly £3.52 to last until the end of the week. 4 There was an accident, but fortunately no one was serious injured.