

# 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	

### Question

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

### Short answer

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

### Use

The Present Perfect Continuous is used:

- 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.
- 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?
- 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.
- 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?
- 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.



# 13

## Earning a living

Present Perfect Continuous • Word formation • Adverbs • Telephoning

### STARTER



- 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.

**T 13.1** 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.  
I have been smoking (smoke) since I was 16.  
I have smoked (smoke) five cigarettes today.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 13.1 p142

### STREET LIFE

#### 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.



- 1  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
For a year. It was very cold at first, but you get used to it.
- 2  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
I came here to look for work, and I never left.
- 3  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
For six months. I'm in Covent Garden seven days a week selling the magazine.
- 4  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
Lots. My problem is I'm homeless. I want a job, but I need somewhere to live before I can get a job. So I need money to get somewhere to live, but ...
- 5  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
Usually about fifty.
- 6  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_?  
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?

**T 13.2** Listen and check.

5 Ask and answer the questions with a partner. Invent Andy's answers.

**T 13.3** 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?
- 2 Anna has been finding / has found a good job.
- 3 My brother and I 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? <sup>coming</sup>
- 2 How long have you been (use) this book? <sup>using</sup>
- 3 Which book did you have (have) before this one?
- 4 How long have you known (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	<u>die</u>
waste	<u>waste</u>
<u>belief</u>	be'lieve
<u>advertisement</u>	'advertise
'promise	<u>promise</u>
<u>feeling</u>	feel
ad'vice	<u>advise</u>
<u>description</u>	de'scribe
in'vention	<u>invent</u>
'government	<u>govern</u>

Noun	Adjective
death	<u>dead</u>
<u>honesty</u>	'honest
va'riety	<u>varied</u>
<u>madness</u>	mad
'mystery	<u>mysterious</u>
<u>beauty</u>	'beautiful
<u>wealth</u>	'wealthy
suc'cess	<u>successful</u>
<u>comfort</u>	'comfortable
peace	<u>peaceful</u>

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 dead on arrival.
- 3 'Are they wealthy?' 'Yes, they're millionaires.'  
'Where does their money come from?' 'They have a very varied business.'
- 4 I love the peace and quiet of the countryside.
- 5 I saw an advertisement for a job as a waiter.
- 6 The sofa was so comfortable that I fell asleep.
- 7 I gave the police a description of 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

1 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.

2 Complete the sentences with the adverbs.

seriously exactly carefully fluently

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