

## UNIT 2

### Introduction to the Present Perfect

- 1 Many languages have a past tense to refer to past time, and a present tense to refer to present time. English has these, too, but it also has the Present Perfect, which relates past actions to the present.
- 2 The use of the Past Simple roots an action in the past, with no explicit connection to the present. When we come across a verb in the Past Simple, we want to know *When?*
- 3 The use of the Present Perfect always has a link with the present. When we come across a verb in the Present Perfect, we want to know how this affects the situation now.
- 4 Compare these sentences.  
*I lived in Rome.* (But not any more.)  
*I've lived in Rome, Paris, and New York.* (I know all these cities now.)  
*I've been living in New York for ten years.* (And I'm living there now.)

### Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

See the introduction to the perfect aspect and the continuous aspect in Unit 1. These tenses have three main uses.

#### 1 Unfinished past

The verb action began in the past and continues to the present. It possibly goes on into the future, as well.

*We've lived in this house for twenty years.*  
*Sorry I'm late. Have you been waiting long?*  
*I've been a teacher for five years.*  
*I've been working at the same school all that time.*

#### Notes

- There is sometimes little or no difference between the simple and the continuous.  
*I've played tennis since I was a kid.*  
*I've been playing tennis since I was a kid.*
- The continuous can sometimes suggest a more temporary situation. The simple can sound more permanent.  
*I've been living with a host family for six weeks.*  
*The castle has stood on the hill overlooking the sea for centuries.*
- Certain verbs, by definition, suggest duration, for example, *wait, rain, snow, learn, sit, lie, play, stay*. They are often found in the continuous.  
*It's been raining all day.*  
*She's been sitting reading for hours.*
- Remember that state verbs rarely take the continuous.  
*I've known Joan for years. \*I've been knowing*  
*How long have you had that car? \*have you been having*  
*I've never understood why she likes him. \*I've never been understanding*

#### 2 Present result

The verb action happened in the past, usually the recent past, and the results of the action are felt now.

*You've changed. What have you done to yourself?*  
*I've lost some weight.*  
*I've been doing some exercise.*  
*I'm covered in mud because I've been gardening.*

In this use, the simple emphasizes the completed action. The continuous emphasizes the repeated activities over a period of time.

#### Notes

- Certain verbs, by definition, suggest a short action, for example, *start, find, lose, begin, stop, break, die, decide, cut*. They are more often found in the simple.  
*We've decided to get married.*  
*I've broken a tooth.*  
*I've cut my finger.*  
In the continuous, these verbs suggest a repeated activity.  
*I've been stopping smoking for years.*  
*You've been losing everything lately. What's the matter with you?*  
*I've been cutting wood.*
- The use of the simple suggests a completed action.  
*I've painted the bathroom.*

The use of the continuous suggests a possibly incomplete action.  
*I'm tired because I've been working.* (Finished? Not finished?)  
*Someone's been eating my chocolates.* (There are some left.)

- The continuous can be found unqualified by any further information.  
*I'm wet because I've been swimming.*  
*We're tired because we've been working.*  
*'Why are you red?' 'I've been running.'*  
The simple sounds quite wrong in this use.  
*\*I've swum. \*We've worked. \*I've run.*
- Sometimes there is little difference between the Past Simple and the Present Perfect.

Where 

<i>did you put</i>	<i>my keys?</i>
<i>have you put</i>	

- American English is different from British English. In American English, these sentences are correct.  
*Did you hear the news? The President resigned!*  
*Did you do your homework yet?*  
*Your father just called you.*  
*I had breakfast already.*

#### 3 Indefinite past

The verb action happened at an unspecified time in the past. The actual time isn't important. We are focusing on the experience at some time in our life.

*Have you ever taken karate classes?*  
*She's never been abroad.*  
*Have you ever been flying in a plane when it's hit an air pocket?*

#### Note

- Notice these two sentences.  
*She's been to Spain.* (At some time in her life.)  
*She's gone to Spain.* (And she's there now.)  
The first is an example of indefinite past.  
The second is an example of present result.

*I've never seen him.*

## LANGUAGE FOCUS

- 1 Simple verb forms see actions as a complete whole.  
*He works for IBM. It rained all day yesterday. I've lost my passport.*
- 2 Continuous verb forms see actions in progress, with a beginning and an end.  
*I'm working with Jim for a couple of days.  
It was raining when I woke up.  
The company has been losing money for years.*
- 3 State verbs don't tend to be used in the continuous.  
*I know Peter well. I've always liked him.  
I don't understand what you're saying.*  
Do you know more verbs like these?

▶▶ Grammar Reference pp140–141

- 4 Match a line in A with a line in B. Write 1 or 2 in the box.

A	B
a <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter comes	1 from Switzerland.
b <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter is coming	2 round at 8.00 tonight.
c <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I wrote a report this morning.	1 I'll finish it this afternoon.
d <input type="checkbox"/> 1 I was writing a report this morning.	2 I sent it off this afternoon.
e <input type="checkbox"/> 1 I heard her scream	1 when she saw a mouse.
f <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I heard the baby screaming	2 all night long.
g <input type="checkbox"/> 2 What have you done	1 since I last saw you?
h <input type="checkbox"/> 1 What have you been doing	2 with my dictionary? I can't find it.
i <input type="checkbox"/> 1 I've had	1 a headache all day.
j <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I've been having	2 second thoughts about the new job.
k <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I've known	1 my new neighbours.
l <input type="checkbox"/> 1 I've been getting to know	2 Anna for over ten years.
m <input type="checkbox"/> 1 I've cut	1 my finger. It hurts.
n <input type="checkbox"/> 2 I've been cutting	2 wood all morning.

2 Put the words in the right box.

a good impression    business    arrangements    a decision    a difference  
 3 research    a profit/a loss    your best    a start/a move    sth clear 5  
 4 a good job    a degree    an effort    sb a favour    2 a suggestion

MAKE	DO

3 Complete the sentences with some of the expressions in exercise 2.

- 1 When you go for a job interview, it's important to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 I think we're all getting tired. Can I \_\_\_\_\_? How about a break?
- 3 A lot of \_\_\_\_\_ has been done into the causes of cancer.
- 4 I think the director is basically \_\_\_\_\_. He's reliable, he's honest, and he gets results.
- 5 I'd like to \_\_\_\_\_ right now that I am totally opposed to this idea.
- 6 Right. I think we should \_\_\_\_\_ and get down to business.
- 7 I don't mind if we go now or later. It \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ to me.
- 8 Could you \_\_\_\_\_ me \_\_\_\_\_ and lend me some money till tomorrow?

**T 2.5** Listen and check.

3 Match a line in A with a line in B. Practise saying them. Pay attention to contracted forms and weak forms.

A	B
He's been stung	in cheap hostels.
He's visited	all over his body.
He's been staying	a lot of really great people.
I've been	to Vietnam and Japan.
I've met	pickpocketed and mugged.
He's been	royal palaces.

**T 2.2** Listen and check.

## EVERYDAY ENGLISH

### Exclamations

1 Look at these examples of exclamations. When do we use *What a(n) ...!*, *What ...!*, and *How...!?*

**What an exciting experience! What nonsense! How horrible!**

2 Match an exclamation in B with a line in C.

A	B	C
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Mmm!</b>	How interesting!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Wow!</b>	That's disgusting!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Hey, Peter!</b>	That's unbelievable! How amazing!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Oh, really?</b>	Sorry about that! I dropped it!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ah!</b>	It's absolutely delicious!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Ouch!</b>	That's nonsense! What a stupid thing to say!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Yuk!</b>	What a shame!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Uh?</b>	That really hurt!
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Phew!</b>	Come over here and sit with us.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Whoops!</b>	What a relief! Thank goodness for that!