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We often use the **Present Perfect Continuous** to express a *continuing activity* in the past that still influences the present moment.



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Questions in Present Perfect Continuous

We often use the **Present Perfect Continuous** to ask and answer questions focusing on the duration of an activity. We often use the question *How long ...* + Present Perfect Continuous.

To make questions in the Present Perfect Continuous, put **'have'/'has'** before the subject and add 'been + '-ing' form of the verb:

- **Has he been running?** He's out of breath.

Yes/No questions

To create a question that will be answered with a 'yes' or 'no', use '**Have**' / '**Has**' (or '**Hadn't**' / '**Hasn't**' for a negative question) + been + -ing verb.

Singular

Plural

*I **have (I've) been reading*** *We **have been reading***

*You **have been reading*** *You **have been reading***

*He/she/it **has been reading*** *They **have been reading***

- **Have you been watching** the movie?
- Yes, come in, let's watch it together.
- **Has she been studying** French this year?
- Yes, and she is taking her exam next Monday.
- **Have they been waiting** for the bus for an hour?
- Unfortunately... Looks like the bus broke down.

Note: In *short positive answers* to the Present Perfect Continuous questions we use only full forms of 'have' / 'has'. In *short negative answers* we can also use short forms of 'have' / 'has'.

- **Have you been waiting** here for two hours?
- Yes, I **have** (No, I **haven't**).
- **Has he been learning** English for five years?
- Yes, he **has** (No, he **hasn't**).

Special questions

Special questions (also known as wh-questions) are questions that require more information in their answers. They are made using [wh- words](#) such as **what, where, when, why, which, who, how, how many, how much**. In Present Perfect Continuous, we usually use '**how long**'.

To make a special question, use the same word order as with yes-no questions but put a wh-word before the verb 'have' or 'has'. The structure is:

wh-word + have/has + [subject] + -ing verb

- How long **have** you **been waiting** for me?
- Why **has** she **been working** today?
- What **have** you **been doing** for the last 30 minutes?
- Why **has** Nancy **not been taking** her medicine for the last three days?

Negative forms of Present Perfect Continuous

To make negative statements in the Present Perfect Continuous, we use:

have/has not (haven't/hasn't) + been + the '-ing' form of the verb

Singular

Plural

*I **haven't been running***

*We **haven't been running***

*You **haven't been running***

*You **haven't been running***

*He/she/it **hasn't been running***

*They **haven't been running***

- *I **haven't been eating** all day long. I am very hungry.*
- *Vicky **hasn't been sleeping** last night and now she looks drowsy.*
- *We **haven't been talking** to each other since last Friday.*

See also:

[Present Perfect Continuous: Statements](#)

[Present Perfect or Present Perfect Continuous?](#)

[Present Perfect Continuous or Past Perfect Continuous?](#)