

PRESENT

PERFECT

VS

PRESENT

PERFECT

CONTINUOUS

PRESENT PERFECT

e.g. He has written 16 books.

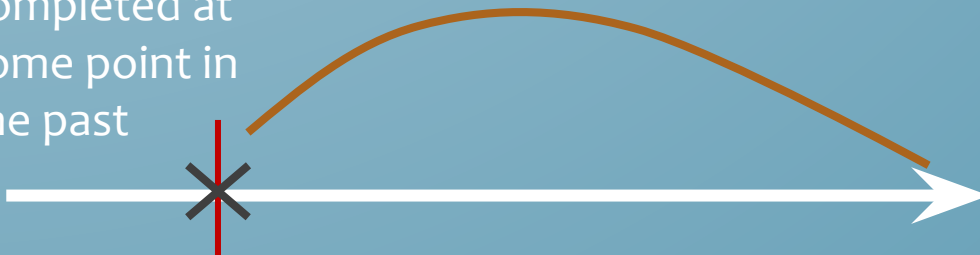
We use the present perfect tense to talk about things where there is a connection between the past and the future.

He started writing books at some time in the past. So far, he has written 16 books. He may write more books.

Action completed at some point in the past

There is a result in present

NOW



AS WELL AS THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE, WE CAN USE **THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS** TENSE TO TALK ABOUT EVENTS WITH A CONNECTION TO THE PRESENT.

Study the following examples:

I have painted the living room blue.

I have been decorating the house this summer.

**I HAVE PAINTED
THE LIVING ROOM
BLUE.**

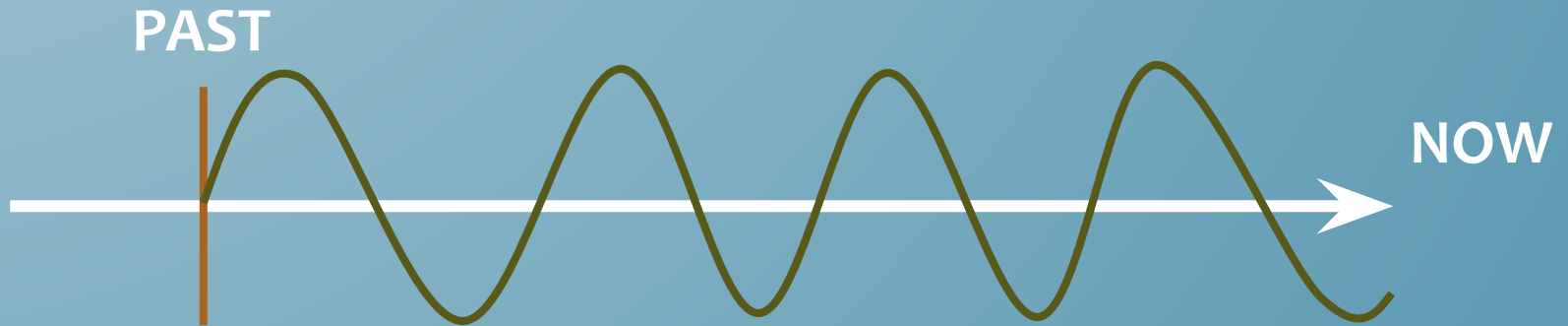
*The focus is on the
result.*

*The activity is
finished and we can
see the result now.*

**I HAVE BEEN
DECORATING THE
HOUSE THIS SUMMER.**

*The focus is on the
action – decorating
– and the action is
unfinished.*

We use the **present perfect continuous** when the focus is on an activity that is unfinished.



***I'VE READ THAT BOOK
YOU LENT ME.***

I FINISHED IT YESTERDAY.

The present perfect
simple (*I've read*)
gives ***the idea of
completion.***

***I'VE BEEN READING
THAT BOOK YOU LENT
ME.***

**I'VE GOT ANOTHER 50 PAGES
TO READ.**

The present perfect
continuous (*I've been
reading*) suggests
that ***something is
unfinished.***

***SHE'S BEEN WRITING
EMAILS FOR 3 HOURS.***

***SHE'S WRITTEN 10
MESSAGES.***

The present perfect
continuous (*has been
writing*) talks about
***how long something
has been happening.***

The present perfect
simple (*has written*)
talks about ***how
much/how many have
been completed.***

***I'VE WORKED HERE
FOR THIRTY YEARS.***

***I USUALLY WORK IN
LONDON BUT I'VE BEEN
WORKING IN BIRMINGHAM
FOR THE LAST 3 WEEKS.***

We can use
the **present perfect
simple** to talk about
how long when we
view something as
permanent.

The **present perfect
continuous** is often
used to show that
something is
temporary.

SOMETIMES THERE'S REALLY NO DIFFERENCE IN MEANING BETWEEN THE TWO TENSES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE WITH VERBS SUCH AS *'LIVE'*, *'WORK'* AND *'STUDY'*.

- They've lived in London **since** 2004.
- They've been living in London **since** 2004.
- I've studied French **for** ten years.
- I've been studying French **for** ten years.
- He's worked at the company **since** 2009.
- He's been working at our company **since** 2009.

**THE PRESENT
PERFECT IS USED
WITH THE
FOLLOWING TIME
EXPRESSIONS:**

- *For*
- *Since*
- *Already*
- *Yet*
- *Always*
- *Just*
- *Ever*
- *Never*
- *So far*
- *Today*
- *This week/month*
- *How long*
- *Lately*
- *Recently*
- *Still (in negations)*

**THE PRESENT
PERFECT
CONTINUOUS IS
USED WITH THE
FOLLOWING TIME
EXPRESSION:**

- *For*
- *Since*
- *How long*
- *Lately*
- *Recently*

1. Linda (travel) around Europe for three months.
2. She (visit) six countries so far.
3. Jimmy (play) since he was five years old.
4. He (win) the national championship four times.
5. Bill and Andy (make) ten films since they left college.
6. They (make) films for many years now.
7. Look! Somebody (break) the window.
8. I (read) the book you gave all morning.
9. But I (not finish) it yet.
0. Sorry I'm late. That's all right. I (not wait) for a long time.
1. Peter (clean) the windows for some time.
2. So far he (clean) five of them and there are two more to go.
3. My brother is an actor. He (appear) in several films.
4. I (learn) Chinese for two years now.