

Mohamed Kheider University

English division: group 4

Present perfect vs. present perfect continuous

We use the present perfect continuous to ask or say how long (for an activity that is still happening):

How long have you been reading that book?

Mari is still writing letters. She's been writing letters all day.

They've been playing tennis since 2 o' clock.

We use the present perfect simple to say or ask how much, how many or how many times (completed actions).

How many pages of that book have you read?

Mary has written ten letters today.

They have played tennis three times this week.

Exercises

For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- 1- You have a friend who is learning Spanish. You ask: (how long /learn Spanish?).
- 2- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She's waiting for you. You ask : (how long/wait)
- 3- You see someone fishing by the river. You ask: (how many / fish/catch?)
- 4- Some of your friends are having a party by the river. You ask: (how many/ people/ invite).
- 5- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask: (How long/ teach?)
- 6- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask: (how many books/ write?) (How long / write books?)
- 7- A fiend of yours is saving money to go on holiday. You ask: (how much money/ save?)

Read the situations and write two sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1- Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
- 2- (Read/for/two hours/). He has been reading for two hours.....
- 3- (Read/ 53 pages so far). He has read 53 pages so far.....
- 1- Linda is from Australia. She's travelling around Europe at the moment. She began her tour three months ago.
- 2- (Travel/for three months) she.....
- 3- (Visit/ six countries/so far).....

Jimmy is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he is national champion again.-for the fourth time.

(Win/ the national championship four times.....

(Play/ tennis/ since he was ten).....

When they left college, Mary and Sue started making films together. They still make films.

(make/ ten films since they left college). They.....

(make/ films/ since they left college .

Put the verbs in the correct form: present perfect simple or present perfect continuous.

- 1- Could you translate this Arabic song for me? I understood Arabic when I was a child, but (I/ forget/it/ all).
- 2- What's that mark on the side of the car...? (You/have/ an accident?)
- 3- The lock on this case is broken..... (You/play/about?) with it.
- 4- Your English is very good. ((you/ Study it/ long?)
- 5- Of course you don't know what I think. (You/ never/ ask) my opinion.
- 6- I am not surprised..... (he /fail/ the exam)..... (he/not/work) hard recently.
- 7- Mina's hands are very dirty..... (she/ repair/ her bike.
- 8- I am going to make some lunch for the kids. (they / swim) all morning. I am sure they're hungry.
- 9- (I/ do/ grammar exercises all morning. I deserve a break.
- 10- Since Maria won that talent show, (she/spend) money like there is no tomorrow.
- 11- (She/ buy) a new car and (she/move/) to a big new house.....she throw / wonderful parties at her new house every weekend too. In fact. I am going to one tomorrow.