

Present Perfect Simple vs Continuous

Activity Sheet (page 1/2)

A. Complete the sentences below, by writing 'PPS' for the Present Perfect Simple and 'PPC' for the Present Perfect Continuous.

1. We use the with action verbs only. We use the with both action and state verbs.
2. We use the for finished, non-time-specific actions which are connected to the present.
3. We use the to talk about actions that have been going on recently and have just stopped.
4. We use the for repeated actions, especially with time expressions like *all day*, *recently*, etc.
5. We use the with words such as *ever*, *already* and *yet*.

B. Read the letter below and circle the correct tenses.

Dear Nancy,

Greetings from Madrid! I can't believe we (1) *have been* / *have been being* here for a month already. We (2) *have done* / *have been doing* so many interesting things that the time has just flown by. It is one of the most beautiful places I (3) *have ever visited* / *have ever been visiting*. We (4) *have stayed* / *have been staying* with a friend who I (5) *have known* / *have been knowing* since college, but tomorrow we are moving to a flat of our own. It's 6pm and I (6) *have just got* / *have just been getting* home from the gym. I (7) *have worked out* / *have been working out* every day recently, and I (8) *have become* / *have been becoming* really fit. Unfortunately, the food is so good here that I (9) *have put on* / *have been putting on* three kilos since I arrived too! What about you? I hope you (10) *haven't worked* / *haven't been working* too hard. Please write and tell me your news.

Sid

C. Put the verbs below in the Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous form.

1. How long (you/have) your bicycle? It looks brand new!
2. I can't believe he proposed to her. They (only/go out) for a month.
3. It's their golden wedding anniversary. They (be) married for 50 years.
4. Jerry (bake) all morning. That's why he has flour in his hair.
5. He (live) with his parents recently as his flat is being renovated.
6. I'm absolutely starving! I (not/have) breakfast yet.
7. I (not/sleep) well recently and I'm completely exhausted.

D. Match each sentence on the left with the correct sentence on the right, using one of the verbs below in either the Present Perfect Simple or the Present Perfect Continuous form.

just/have live ever/eat argue know
 not/change be try work already/see

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. He's my oldest friend. | a. It was the best pie I |
| 2. Pisa is my favourite city. | b. She too hard lately. |
| 3. No wonder Bill's Spanish is so good. | c. You a bit. |
| 4. Alice needs some time off. | d. I the film twice. |
| 5. You look the same as you did in college. | e. I there six times. |
| 6. I wish you'd pick up your phone. | f. They a lot recently. |
| 7. I'm not going to the cinema with you. | g. I him for 30 years. |
| 8. I'm not surprised they've broken up. | h. I a cup. |
| 9. No coffee for me thanks. | i. I to reach you all day! |
| 10. I'll never forget that apple pie. | j. He in Cuba for a year. |

E. Using the Present Perfect Simple or the Present Perfect Continuous, make sentences to state whether you think that you or your partner has been doing each of the things below the longest. Next, create a suitable 'How long...' question to find out the information.

- I think that *I / you* (be) awake the longest.
 How long?
- I think that *I / you* (learn) English the longest.
 How long?
- I think that *I / you* (live) in my / your home the longest.
 How long?
- I think that *I / you* (sit) in this classroom the longest.
 How long?
- I think that *I / you* (be / alive) the longest.
 How long?

Ask your partner the questions and see how many of your guesses were correct.