

# 03 Present perfect Present perfect continuous

6 We form the **present perfect continuous** with **have/has been + -ing form**:

*I've been watching you.  
They haven't been playing long.  
Has he been travelling all day?*

7 We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about actions that started in the past and continue into the present:

*The earth has been getting warmer.*

8 We use the **present perfect continuous** when the emphasis is on the **action** being done. (To talk about the result of the action, use the present perfect – for more information, see p. 10.)

*Why is the kitchen in a mess? ~ Because Alan's been making a cake.  
Emma's tired. She's been tidying her room all morning. (The job is not necessarily finished.)*

6 We also use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about an action we started in the past that finished a very short time ago:

*I've been waiting for you to call.*

7 We can use the **present perfect continuous** for a series of repeated actions, for example when we try to do something again and again:

*We've been trying to contact you all day to tell you that you've won a prize.*

8 We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk or ask about an action happening over a period of time up to now. We can use **how long** with **for** or **since**:

*Sally's been cooking all afternoon. She's been preparing for the party since lunchtime. (We are thinking of Sally doing the cooking.)*

We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about recent repeated actions or for a repeated action that is different from usual. We use time phrases such as **recently, lately, this week**.

*My son's been staying up late a lot recently – I'm rather worried.*

## Grammar in action

5 We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about an action we started in the past, and are still doing now:

*I've been working all day and I still haven't finished.*



9 We often use the **present perfect continuous** when a recent action explains why we look or feel a certain way:

*Jane's tired because she's been painting her room. (The action of painting explains why she is tired.)*



## D Waiting for the stars

A journalist visits a film festival and talks to the fans waiting to see the film stars.

JOURNALIST Good morning. How long **have you been waiting**.....<sup>0</sup> (you, wait) to see your favourite stars?

FAN Well, we arrived at about 6 a.m. and it's 10 a.m. now, so we .....<sup>1</sup> (wait) for about four hours.

JOURNALIST And .....<sup>2</sup> (you, stand) here all that time?

FAN No, a friend and I take it in turns because of the rain.

JOURNALIST Yes, it's pretty wet. ....<sup>3</sup> (it, rain) long?

FAN No, only since about 9 o' clock.

JOURNALIST And how about you? Are you a great film festival fan?

FAN Oh, yes. I .....<sup>4</sup> (come) to this one for six years now.

JOURNALIST Six years? That's as long as I .....<sup>5</sup> (write) articles for my newspaper. I see you've got an autograph book.

FAN Yes, I always bring it with me. I've got more than 200 autographs.  
 JOURNALIST Whose autograph are you hoping to get today?  
 FAN Scarlett Johansson's. I .....<sup>6</sup> (try) to get it for years but I still haven't managed it.

**E Children**

Use the verbs in the present perfect continuous to complete the dialogue.

build do feed look play worry

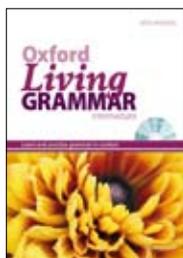
JACK AND EVE Hello, Mummy. We're home.  
 MOTHER Thank goodness. I *have been looking* <sup>0</sup> for you everywhere.  
 What .....<sup>1</sup> (you)?  
 EVE We .....<sup>2</sup> in the park.  
 MOTHER But you're all dirty.  
 JACK Yes, I .....<sup>3</sup> houses with the mud from the pond.  
 EVE And I .....<sup>4</sup> the ducks.  
 MOTHER And I .....<sup>5</sup> about where you were. Well, you can both go and have a good wash!



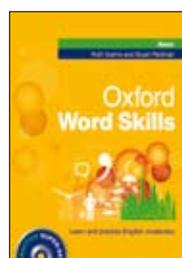
**F More party preparations**

Fiona is in charge of a big party but she arrives late, in the middle of the preparations. Complete the dialogue by putting the verbs into the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous.

FIONA Hello, everybody. I'm sorry I'm late. I *have been trying* .....<sup>0</sup> (try) to find a DJ but so far I *haven't found* .....<sup>1</sup> (not, find) one, though one .....<sup>1</sup> (promise) to phone me later. ....<sup>2</sup> (you all, get on) with what we decided?  
 KATE Well, Tim and I .....<sup>3</sup> (make) sandwiches ever since we arrived. So far, we .....<sup>4</sup> (make) about 50.  
 FIONA Charlie – .....<sup>5</sup> (you, manage) to set up the sound system yet?  
 CHARLIE Well, I .....<sup>6</sup> (work) on it all morning but there are a couple of technical problems that I .....<sup>7</sup> (not, solve) yet.  
 FIONA You look very hot, Mike. I suppose that's because you .....<sup>8</sup> (move) the chairs and tables.  
 MIKE That's right. But I've almost finished, and my sister .....<sup>9</sup> (wipe) all of them so they are ready for use.  
 (RING, RING)  
 FIONA Oh, that's my mobile. Hello ... Yes, I .....<sup>10</sup> (expect) your call ... You can? Oh, that's great! ... See you about 9 o'clock then. Bye!  
 FIONA Great news, everybody. That guy I mentioned .....<sup>11</sup> (agree) to be our DJ.



Answers:  
***Oxford Living Grammar  
Intermediate***



Answers:  
***Oxford Word Skills  
Basic***

### 03 Present perfect

- D**
- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 've been waiting       | 4 've been coming  |
| 2 have you been standing | 5 've been writing |
| 3 Has it been raining    | 6 've been trying  |
- E**
- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 have you been doing | 4 've been feeding  |
| 2 've been playing    | 5 've been worrying |
| 3 've been building   |                     |
- F**
- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 has promised                 | 7 haven't solved      |
| 2 Have you all been getting on | 8 've been moving     |
| 3 have been making             | 9 has wiped           |
| 4 've made                     | 10 've been expecting |
| 5 have you managed             | 11 has agreed         |
| 6 've been working             |                       |

### Unit 22

- |           |                |
|-----------|----------------|
| 1 1 hurts | 7 flu          |
| 2 've got | 8 Has          |
| 3 feel    | 9 've got      |
| 4 've got | 10 Has         |
| 5 feel    | 11 's          |
| 6 hurts   | 12 haven't got |