

# 26 Activities in progress

Use the present perfect continuous to talk about ongoing activities in the past. Use "for" and "since" to talk about the length or starting point of an activity.

 **New language** Present perfect continuous

 **Aa Vocabulary** Home improvements

 **New skill** Talking about activities in the past

## 26.1 KEY LANGUAGE THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The present perfect continuous describes an activity that took place over a period of time in the recent past. The activity might just have stopped or might still be happening.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

**I have been painting the house all day. I'm exhausted!**



The past activity often affects the present moment.

## 26.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

"I have" can be shortened to "I've."

**I've been cooking this evening.**

Now I have to do the dishes.



"He has" can be shortened to "He's."

**He's been waiting for the bus for an hour.**

He is going to be late for work.



## 26.3 HOW TO FORM THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

SUBJECT

"HAS / HAVE"

"BEEN"

VERB + "-ING"

OBJECT

I

have

been

painting

the house.

Use "have" or "has," depending on the subject.

"Been" stays the same for all subjects.

Add "-ing" to the main verb.



## 26.4 FILL IN THE GAPS BY PUTTING THE VERBS IN THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

I have been cooking (cook) dinner all afternoon. I'm having a dinner party tonight.

- 1 They have been playing (play) tennis this morning. Now they're very tired.
- 2 Tom has been fishing (fish) today. He's caught lots of fish.
- 3 We have been watching (watch) TV all evening. Now it's time to go to bed.
- 4 Irina has been reading (read) a book in the park. She says it's really good.
- 5 You have been cleaning (clean) the apartment all day. It's time for a break.
- 6 I have been listening (listen) to music on the way to work. It helps me relax.



## Aa 26.5 READ THE ARTICLE AND MATCH THE PICTURES TO THE PHRASES

D.I.Y TODAY

# Creating a Home

George Howells and his family are almost ready to move into their new home. George tells DIY Today what everyone has been doing.

For the last week we have been **tiling the kitchen** and **putting up shelves**. My dad has also been **fixing the bathtub** and our eldest daughter has been **painting the bedroom**. In the living room our son has been **fitting a carpet** and my brother has been **making curtains**.

Everyone has been helping us so much that on Saturday we can move into the house a week early.



- 1  putting up shelves
- 2  fixing the bathtub
- 3  painting the bedroom
- 4  tiling the kitchen
- 5  fitting a carpet

making curtains



## 26.6 KEY LANGUAGE "FOR" AND "SINCE"

English uses "for" with the present perfect continuous to show the length of time that an action has taken. "Since" is used to show the starting point of the action.

**I have been painting the house **for** three hours.**

This means the speaker started painting three hours ago.

"FOR" + QUANTITY OF TIME

**I have been painting the house **since** 3 o'clock.**

This means the speaker started painting at 3pm.

"SINCE" + TIME OR DATE



## 26.7 FURTHER EXAMPLES "FOR" AND "SINCE"

**He's been tiling the kitchen **for** a week.**

**He's been tiling the kitchen **since** last Wednesday.**



## 26.8 USE THE CHART TO CREATE 16 CORRECT SENTENCES AND SAY THEM OUT LOUD

*I've been tiling the bathroom **for** three weeks.*



I've  
She's

been

tiling the bathroom  
painting the walls

for  
since

three weeks.  
noon.  
two days.  
April.



