

27 My talents and skills

When you see evidence that something has happened, you can use the present perfect continuous to ask questions about it.

⚙️ **New language** Present perfect continuous questions

Aa **Vocabulary** Hobbies and interests

🧩 **New skill** Asking about past events

27.1 KEY LANGUAGE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS

English uses present perfect continuous questions to ask about ongoing actions in the recent past, especially when there is evidence that an action has taken place.

The subject goes between "have" and "been."

Have you been baking a cake?
It smells delicious!



27.2 FURTHER EXAMPLES PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS

Have you been gardening? Your flowers look nice.



Have you been learning the guitar?



James looks good. **Has he been working out?**



27.3 HOW TO FORM PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS

In present perfect continuous questions, the subject comes between "has" or "have" and "been."

"HAS / HAVE"

SUBJECT

"BEEN"

VERB+ "-ING"

OBJECT

Have

you

been

baking

a cake?

Start the question with "has" or "have."

The subject is followed by "been."

Add "-ing" to the verb.



27.4 REWRITE THE STATEMENTS AS QUESTIONS

He's been playing the drums.

Has he been playing the drums?

- ① She's been training for a race.

- ② He's been learning the violin.

- ③ They've been playing music together.

- ④ She's been taking photos of the city.

- ⑤ You've been painting her portrait.



27.5 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Cath is going to Vikram's house for dinner. The two friends haven't seen each other for a long time.

Vikram has been cooking for Cath.

True ☒ False ☐

- ① Cath has been making a curry.

True ☐ False ☐

- ② Cath has been working for a magazine.

True ☐ False ☐

- ③ Cath has been painting her apartment.

True ☐ False ☐

- ④ Vikram hasn't been designing menus.

True ☐ False ☐

- ⑤ Vikram will open a new restaurant.

True ☐ False ☐



27.6 MATCH THE STATEMENTS TO THE QUESTIONS



You've got a beautiful voice.

①



Your fingers look sore.

②



It looks so neat outside.

③



Your band sounds amazing!

④



The house looks really fantastic.

⑤



The kitchen's a terrible mess.

Has Paula been mowing the lawn?

Have you been playing together for long?

Have the twins been baking a cake?

Have you been taking singing lessons?

Have you been practicing the guitar?

Have you been redecorating it?



27.7 KEY LANGUAGE "HOW LONG?"

You can add "how long" to the beginning of present perfect continuous questions to ask about the duration of actions in the past. Answers to these questions use the present perfect continuous with "for" or "since."

"How long" is added to the beginning of the question.

How long have you been playing the guitar?



I've been playing the guitar { **for five months.**
since January.



27.8 FURTHER EXAMPLES "HOW LONG?"



How long has he been learning the piano?

He's been learning the piano **since last May.**



How long has she been singing in the choir?

She's been singing in the choir **for nine months.**



27.9 REWRITE THE SENTENCES, PUTTING THE WORDS IN THE CORRECT ORDER

the playing been How have long you trumpet?

How long have you been playing the trumpet?

1 long Melissa How writing has novel? been her

2 house? the painting have long been they How

3 Savannah has practicing long recorder? How the been

4 learning been long drive? How to Alejandro has





27.10 READ THE ARTICLE AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

When did The Tangs start working on their album?

Two years ago ☒ Last year ☐ Six months ago ☐

1 Where did The Tangs start playing music together?

At college ☐ At work ☐ At school ☐

2 What instrument did Dan learn to play?

Piano ☐ Guitar ☐ Drums ☐

3 How long has Jules been playing the saxophone?

Five years ☐ Seven years ☐ He can't play ☐

4 How long have The Tangs been writing songs?

Three years ☐ Always ☐ A few years ☐

5 Has Jess been taking singing lessons?

Yes ☐ No ☐ She doesn't say ☐

MAD FOR MUSIC

5 mins with The Tangs

M4M: Your new album, *Funk Family*, is out next week. How long have you been working on it?

Jules: For two years. We wanted to get it just right!

M4M: And how long have you been playing music together?

Jess: Since we were at school. Jules couldn't even play the saxophone at first, and Dan took drumming lessons.

Jules: Now I've been playing the sax for seven years.

Dan: At first we played all sorts of music, but for the last three years, we've been writing our own songs.

M4M: And you sound great! Jess, you've got a beautiful voice. Have you been taking lessons?

Jess: Not to start with, but I have recently.



27.11 SAY THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS QUESTIONS OUT LOUD, FILLING IN THE GAPS

How long has Jason been learning (learn) the guitar?



1 How long _____ you _____ (play) the piano?



2 How long _____ they _____ (perform) in public?



3 How long _____ Ben _____ (take) singing lessons?



4 How long _____ she _____ (learn) English?



27 CHECKLIST



Present perfect continuous questions ☐

Aa Hobbies and interests ☐



Asking about past events ☐