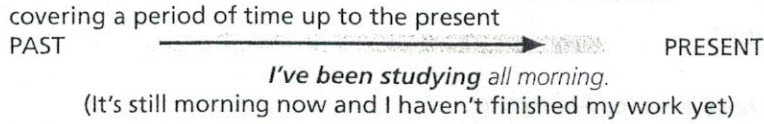


Use present perfect continuous

- to talk about recent continuing activities.
*What **have** you **been doing** lately?*
*I've **been revising** for my exams.*
- to explain how recent continuing activities have caused the present situation.
*My eyes ache. I've **been reading** all day.*
- to talk about recent continuing activities which will probably continue in the future.
*This diagram shows how the climate **has been changing**.*
- with *how long* questions.
*How long **have you been studying** French?*
(this is a continuing process, and isn't finished)
- with time words *lately, recently, all (day), every (morning), for, since.*



present perfect simple or present perfect continuous?

Present perfect simple *I've **written** my project.* (finished, but we don't know when)
 Present perfect continuous *I've **been writing** my project.* (continuing up to the present, and not finished)

With verbs that describe continuing states eg *work, live*, there is little difference in meaning.

*I've **worked** here for three years. / I've **been working** here for three years.*

Note that we **do not** say *I **am working** here for three years.*

2 Underline the correct form.

A Scientists a *have recently identified* / *have been identifying* a new species of animal in the rainforest of Borneo. They b *have been searching* / *searched* for this creature for several years, after reports from local villagers, and say it is a type of lemur.



A lemur

B Archaeologists in Guatemala c *have found* / *have been finding* a Mayan wall painting which they think is more than 2,000 years old. Archaeologist William Saturno d *explored* / *has been exploring* the site since 2002.

C Scientists using the Hubble Space Telescope think they e *found* / *have found* two new moons circling the planet Pluto. Astronomers f *have been looking* / *looked* closely at Pluto since 1978 when they g *spotted* / *have spotted* its first moon. The telescope h *worked* / *has been working* for fifteen years, and i *has been producing* / *has produced* more than 700,000 images of the universe.

D Australian scientists j *have been discovering* / *have discovered* a new coral reef over 60 km long in the Gulf of Carpentaria by using satellites to spot the reefs in deep water. Recently divers k *have managed* / *have been managing* to reach the reefs and take photographs.



Use the prompts and *how long* to make a question.

- a astronomers / look for Pluto's moons?
How long have astronomers been looking for Pluto's moons ?
- b archaeologists / hope to find Atlantis?
..... ?
- c scientists / use satellites to discover new reefs?
..... ?
- d physicists / investigate the origin of the universe?
..... ?

- e scientists / observe Vesuvius?
..... ?
- f biologists / try to find new species of mammal?
..... ?
- g archaeologists / excavate the palace in Guatemala?
..... ?
- h doctors / search for a cure for HIV?
..... ?

Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous Exercise

1. _____ (you / buy) your train ticket yet?
2. The kitchen is a complete mess! What _____ (the children / do)?
3. Julie _____ (learn) to drive for six years!
4. Amanda _____ (already / have) lunch, so she'll meet us later.
5. How much coffee _____ (she / drink) this morning?
6. Simon _____ (write) three books.
7. I _____ (do) everything I needed to do today! Hurray!
8. It _____ (not / rain) all summer, so the garden is dead.
9. I _____ (read) your book. Here it is, thank you.
10. She _____ (forget) how to get to my house.
11. I _____ (work) in the garden all day and I need a rest.
12. She _____ (make) three cakes. They look delicious!
13. David feels great these days. He _____ (get) up early lately.
14. We _____ (always / hate) rush hour traffic.
15. Recently, I _____ (study) a lot. My exams are in a few weeks.
16. We _____ (write) this book for months and months.
17. I _____ (always / love) chocolate.
18. I _____ (want) to go back to university for a long time.
19. What's that delicious smell? _____ (you / cook)?
20. I _____ (watch) seven films this week!