

Present perfect continuous

Oxford Practice Grammar provides short grammar explanations which are easy to understand, and lots of practice activities to build students' confidence. This lesson consolidates your students' knowledge of the present perfect continuous.

Lesson length: 45-60 mins

Aim: to review the use of the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since* to talk about an action or situation that began in the past and continues now.

Preparation:

- Make one large copy of 'Julia on the phone' (see end of plan) to use as a visual aid at the start of the lesson.
- You will need a copy of the following for each student:
Activity worksheet: **Present perfect continuous** (from *Oxford Practice Grammar Basic* Unit 17)

1. GRAMMAR REVIEW 1: Present perfect continuous for actions and situations that started in the past and continue until now

- Show a mobile phone, if you have one with you. Ask *Who uses their phone every day? Do you use it for texting or talking?*
- Stick the pictures of Julia on the board. Tell the class that Julia likes talking on the phone. Build the concept of the target language with Q & A. Ask *What's the time now?* (2 o'clock) *What's Julia doing?* (She's talking on the phone.) Point to the 'Past' picture and ask *What's the time here?* (1 o'clock) *What was she doing then?* (She was talking on the phone.) Finally, ask *How can we put all of that information in one sentence?* and see if you can elicit this target sentence:

Julia has been talking on the phone for an hour.

Note: If the students produce *Julia has talked on the phone for an hour*, encourage them to think how they could emphasize the length of time by changing the tense.

- Practise the pronunciation of the correct target sentence with the class, then write the sentence on the board and highlight the form:

Present perfect continuous

SUBJ + HAS/'S + BEEN + -ING FORM

Julia **has been talking** on the phone for an hour.

Julia's **been talking** on the phone for an hour.

Add this sentence:

SUBJ + HAVE/'VE + BEEN + -ING FORM

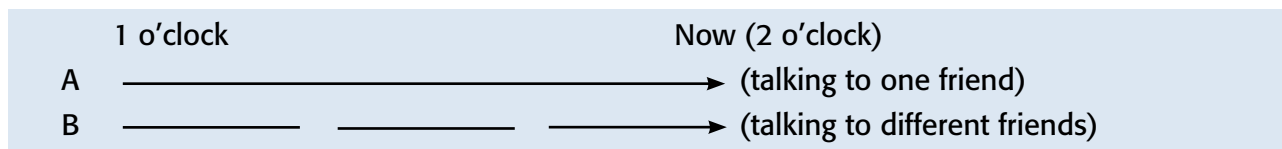
We **have been waiting** to use the phone for an hour.

We've **been waiting** to use the phone for an hour.

Grammar to go! Lesson Link

Practise the pronunciation of all four sentences on the board. Reinforce the concept again with concept check questions: *Are people waiting for the phone now?* (Yes) *Were they waiting an hour ago?* (Yes.) *Does the speaker think this is a long or a short time?* (A long time)

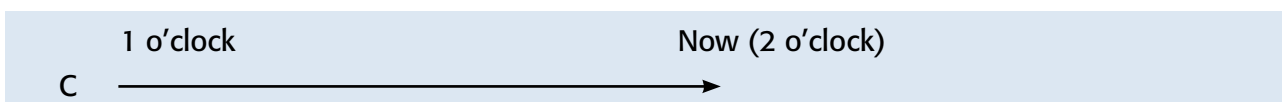
- Draw these two timelines on the board



Explain that we can use present perfect continuous to describe:

- A** a single activity that lasts a long time, and
- B** an action that is repeated over a long period of time.

- Point out that we can also use the present perfect continuous when a long activity has just stopped. Mime finishing a long phone conversation, looking tired, then say *Phew! I've been talking on the phone for an hour.* Draw this timeline on the board:



2. REVIEW ACTIVITY

- Hand out the worksheet and direct the students to exercise 1. Ask the students to look at the pictures. Ask *What time of year is it?* (Christmas). Give the students about five minutes to write sentences about the busy Wyatt family using the words and pictures.
- Let the students compare their answers in pairs, then check the correct answers with the whole class.

Answers: 1. Mary and Stephen have been making a cake. 2. Martha has been wrapping presents. 3. Delia has been decorating the tree. 4. Tom has been shopping for food. 5. Joanna has been writing cards.

3. GRAMMAR REVIEW 2: *for* and *since*

- Write these times and time expressions on the board and check that the students know which words need *for* and which need *since*:

ten years	last month
about two weeks	we met in Paris
20 minutes	half past nine

4. REVIEW ACTIVITY

- Direct the students to exercise 2 on the worksheet. Do this exercise orally with the whole class. Read the sentences aloud one by one, pausing at the gap. Allow the students time to read the end of the sentence, then get them to call out 'for' or 'since' and the last few words.

Answers: 1. for 2. for 3. since 4. for 5. since 6. since 7. for 8. for

- Give the students 5-10 minutes to do exercise 3 on the worksheet. Let the students compare answers in pairs, then go through the correct answers with the whole class.

Answers: 1. It's been raining since three o'clock. 2. He's been playing chess since he was ten. 3. I've been working since eight o'clock. 4. Helen's been looking for another job for two months. 5. We've been waiting for two hours.

5. CONTEXTUALIZED ACTIVITY: Me, recently

Write these prompts on the board or project them on an OHP. Point out that *recently* and *lately* both mean 'in the last few days and weeks'. Then give the task instructions.

Think of....

- ...a book you've been reading recently.
- ...a piece of clothing you've been wearing a lot lately.
- ...someone you've been thinking about a lot recently.
- ...something you've been thinking about today.
- ...someone you've been writing or speaking to a lot lately.
- ...a song or piece of music you've been listening to a lot recently.

Task Instructions:

A. Look at the board. Write short answers on a piece of paper. Write them all over the page, not in the same order as on the board. For example:

MY SISTER	EAT, PRAY, LOVE	MARK
A PARTY	SUMMER HOLIDAY	JEANS

- B.** Work with a partner. Look at each other's answers. Can you guess why your partner wrote these answers. For example, *Have you been talking to your sister a lot recently? No, but I've been thinking about her a lot recently.* Talk together about your answers, then swap your pieces of paper.
- C.** Work with a new partner. Show them your first partner's piece of paper, and talk about his/her answers, using the present perfect continuous.
- D.** When the conversations have finished, invite individual students to report back on some of the things they found out about each other.

6. HOMEWORK/EXPANSION

Write this on the board. Tell the students it's an email from their old friend Harry:

Hi
I've been thinking a lot about you recently. What have you been doing since I last saw you?
Write soon
Harry

Ask students to write a short letter or email to Harry based on the notes they made in the final activity.

7. EXTRA ACTIVITY

Get the students to look on the internet for songs containing the present perfect continuous. Suggest these search terms: *been looking, been dreaming, been thinking, been hoping*

EXTRA HELP

Do your students need help with present perfect simple?: Direct them to units 13-15 of *Oxford Practice Grammar Basic*.

Do your students need help with understanding the difference between present perfect continuous and present perfect simple?: Direct them to unit 18 of *Oxford Practice Grammar Basic*.

Have you got the right books to develop and extend vocabulary?: Use units from *Oxford Word Skills* for 'I can...' confidence.

Oxford Practise Grammar Basic: Julia on the phone



PAST



NOW

Activity worksheet: Present perfect continuous

1. Write sentences to describe what each member of the Wyatt family has been doing to prepare for Christmas. Use words from the box and the Present Perfect Continuous to describe the pictures.

- | | |
|-------------|----------|
| wrap | make |
| decorate | shop |
| write | put up |
| a cake | cards |
| decorations | presents |
| the tree | for food |



- ▶ John has been putting up decorations.
- 1 Mary and Stephen
- 2 Martha
- 3 Delia
- 4 Tom
- 5 Joanna

2. Put *for* or *since* into the gaps.

- ▶ I've been working in this office since last summer.
- 1 Have you been doing this course a long time?
- 2 I've been driving this car more than ten years.
- 3 She has been planning the party the beginning of the month.
- 4 George has been telling the same stories several years.
- 5 We've been waiting for a reply we wrote to them last week.
- 6 What have you been doing the last time that I saw you?
- 7 You've been writing that letter more than two hours.
- 8 He's been feeling ill a few days.

3. Write a sentence for each of the following situations, using the Present Perfect Continuous and *for* or *since*.

- ▶ She started her course a month ago and she is still doing it.
She has been doing her course for a month.
- ▶ I started reading this novel last weekend and I'm still reading it.
I have been reading this novel since last weekend.
- 1 It started raining at three o'clock and it is still raining.
.....
- 2 He started playing chess when he was ten and he still plays it.
.....
- 3 I started work at eight o'clock and I'm still working.
.....
- 4 Helen started looking for another job two months ago and she's still looking.
.....
- 5 We arrived here two hours ago and we're still waiting.
.....