



Module: English

Branch: International Trade

Level: Third year Bachelor

Lecture 14: Present perfect continuous or simple?

1- I have been doing or I have done?

*Mike **has been repairing** the car.*

We use the present perfect continuous for an action happening over a period of time .

We are thinking of Mike doing the repair and getting oil on his hands .

*Mike **has repaired** the car.*

We use the present perfect simple for a complete action. We are thinking of the finished repair and the result of the repair – that the car is all right now.

- Here are some more examples.

OVER A PERIOD (have been doing)

***We've been touring** Scotland. A strong wind **has been blowing** all day. Vicky is out of breath. She's **been running**. I've **been writing** an essay. I'm tired now.*

We normally use the continuous form when we say how long.

*Rachel **has been playing** music all day.*

*I've **been ironing** shirts since ten o'clock.*

***How long have you been learning** to drive?*

COMPLETE (have done)

***We've finished** our tour of Scotland. The wind **has blown** a tree over. Vicky is here at last. She's **run** all the way. I've **written** an essay. I can hand it in now* We normally use the simple form when we say how much/many.

*Rachel **has played** at least **twenty** CDs.*

*I've **ironed eight** shirts.*

How many driving lessons have you had?

2- States and actions

We cannot normally use the continuous form with a state verb .

*I've **known** the secret for a long time, NOT I've been knowing the secret. My parents **have had** this car for about ten years. We've never **been** very happy here, I'm afraid.*

Live and **work** (= have a job) can be continuous or simple, with no difference in meaning.

*We've **been living** here since 1992. OR We've **lived** here since 1992.*

*Sarah **has been working** for the company for three years now. OR Sarah **has worked** for the company for three years now.*

3-Exercise to do

I have been doing or I have done?

Look at these conversations and put in the correct form of the verb. Use the present perfect continuous or simple.

► Sarah: I feel really tired.

Mark: It's because *you've been doing* (you / do) too much.

Sarah: Well, at least *I've finished* (I / finish) that report now, and I can relax.

- David: Someone(leave) the ladder outside, look.

Harriet: I expect that's Mike. (he / clean) the windows.

I don't think.....(he/ finish) yet.

- Laura: You've got mud on your shoes.

Trevor: It's all right, I'll take them off..... (I / work) in the garden.

Laura: Yes, it looks a lot tidier. Well done..... (you / do) a good job.

- Tom:(I / hear) that you and Harriet are building a garage.

How long(you / do) that?

Mike: Oh, for about a month now. (we / do) about half of it.