

Present Perfect and Present Perfect Progressive

Present perfect is used to talk about events that started in the past, and still continue in the present.
Eg. *They have been married for 20 years.*

Here present perfect is used to describe a trend that started in the past, but still continues today.

Present perfect can also be used to talk about things in the past where the answer can *still change*.

Eg. *J.K Rowling has written 32 books.*

Present perfect is used because the author can write more books, and so the answer is not closed.



1. Fill out the blanks below to complete the present perfect statements.

- I (go) shopping twice this week already.
- My Dad (not/buy) Christmas presents yet.
- you (finish) the report yet?
- I (not/eat) anything today, I'm starving!
- I (do) everything I need to do today, so now I can relax.
- The bus (not/leave) yet, we can catch it if we hurry.

Present perfect is quite similar to present perfect progressive, but present perfect is focused on results, whereas present perfect progressive is focused on the process.

Eg. *I have been writing emails all day.*

This sentence focuses on the process of writing emails. If we wanted to talk about the result, we would change back to present perfect. Eg *I have written 23 emails today.*



2. Fill out the blanks below to complete the present perfect progressive statements.

- I (make) films since I was a kid.
- She (listen) to loud music all day.
- My uncle (not/feel) well lately, he should go to a doctor.
- It (rain) all week, I'm so sick of this weather!
- The students (practice) their handwriting, they get better every day!
- Sorry I'm late,you (wait) long?
- I (work) a lot recently, so I didn't have time to reply.

Present perfect progressive is often used to describe the process *before or after* describing the result.

Eg. *He looks tired* (result). *He hasn't been sleeping well* (process).

Or

He's been saving money all year (process). *I think he can afford a holiday* (result).



3. Read the result statements below, and write your own present perfect progressive statements describing the process that lead to the result. Try to use time phrases such as “recently” or “all day.”

a) I feel fantastic. Eg. “*I've been working out every day*”

b) My feet hurt.

c) Her eyes are red.

d) The teacher is angry at the students.

e) My fridge is full of home-cooked meals.

f) My girlfriend isn't talking to me.

g) My girlfriend can't come to the party.

h) The price of oil is down.

i) My house is cleaner than ever.

How long vs How much

Present perfect is very often focussed on *how much*, and present perfect progressive is often focused on *how long*.

Eg. *I've been reading this book for 2 months* (how long), *but I've only read 20 pages* (how much)."

It's also important to note that we only use present perfect progressive with *active* verbs, not with *state* verbs. Active verbs are verbs that describe an action, such as “run” or “drive.” State verbs are verbs that describe a state of being such as “know” or “want.” With state verbs we only use present perfect.

Eg. *I've been listening to this band for 3 years.* (active verb, how long)

I've had this car for 3 years. (state verb, how long)

Some verbs such as “work” or “live” can be either state or active. Therefore, either present perfect or present perfect progressive can be used.

Eg. *I have worked here for 7 years* is the same as *I have been working here for 7 years*



4. Look at the descriptions of people's career paths and make at least one present perfect and one present perfect progressive sentence for each person.

E.g. Thomas Mullin, truck driver. Started driving trucks in 2009. Number of accidents: 2.

"He's been driving trucks since 2009. He's had 2 accidents"

(Note: you will often have to change the verb. Eg. Sarah bought the business 5 years ago" becomes: "She has had the business for 5 years)

a) James Madison, film maker. Started making films: 14 yrs old. Number of films made: 24. Number of awards: 7. Number of films written by him: 7.

b) Juliette Franco, dentist. Became a dentist: 10 years ago. Bought her own practice: 3 years ago. Started giving free dental procedures as charity in September. Started studying veterinary dentistry 2 months ago.

c) Johnny Turnbull, cyclist. Started cycling professionally at 21. Came 2nd in the Tour de France 3 times. Started training with a new trainer in July. Started avoiding interviews with the media recently.

d) Sasha Freeman, hedge fund manager. Was promoted to her current position 3 years ago. Amount of money made in 3 years: 2 million dollars. Profits started going down: 6 months ago. Started looking for a new job: 2 months ago.



5. Now make similar sentences about yourself.
