

## UNIT 10

### Continuous forms

Remember, the following ideas are expressed by all continuous forms:

- activity in progress.  
*Be quiet! I'm thinking.*  
*I was having a shower when the phone rang.*  
*I've been working since 9 o'clock this morning.*
- temporary activity.  
*We're staying with friends until we find a place of our own.*  
*We've been living with them for six weeks.*
- possibly incomplete activity.  
*I'm writing a report. I have to finish it by tomorrow.*  
*Who's been eating my sandwich?*

▶ **Workbook p63** Further practice of simple and continuous forms

### 10.1 Present Perfect Continuous

#### Form

#### Positive and negative

I We You They	've haven't	been working.
He She It	's hasn't	

#### Question

How long	have	I you we	been working?
	has	she it	

#### Use

We use the Present Perfect Continuous to express:

- an activity that began in the past and is continuing now.  
*I've been studying English for three years.*  
*How long have you been working here?*  
Sometimes there is no difference between the simple and the continuous.

I've played I've been playing	the piano since I was a boy.
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If the continuous is possible, English has a preference for using it.

The continuous can sometimes express a temporary activity, and the simple a permanent state.

*I've been living in this house for the past few months.* (temporary)

*I've lived here all my life.* (permanent)

Remember that state verbs rarely take the continuous form (see 2.3 p136).

*I've had this book for ages.*

*I've always loved sunny days.*

- a past activity that has caused a present result.

*I've been working all day.* (I'm tired now.)

*Have you been crying?* (Your eyes are red.)

*Roger's been cooking with garlic.* (I can smell it.)

The past activity might be finished or it might not. The context usually makes this clear.

*Look out of the window! It's been snowing!* (It has stopped snowing now.)

*I've been writing this book for two years.* (It still isn't finished.)

*I'm covered in paint because I've been decorating the bathroom.* (It might be finished or it might not. We don't know.)

### 10.2 Present Perfect Simple or Continuous?

- The simple expresses a completed action.

*I've painted the kitchen, and now I'm doing the bathroom.*

The continuous expresses an activity over a period and things that happened during the activity.

*I've got paint in my hair because I've been decorating.*

Because the simple expresses a completed action, we use it if the sentence gives a number or quantity. Here, the continuous isn't possible.

*I've been reading all day. I've read ten chapters.*

*She's been eating ever since she arrived. She's eaten ten biscuits already.*

- Some verbs don't have the idea of a long time, for example, *find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop*. These verbs are more usually found in the simple.

Some verbs have the idea of a long time, for example, *wait, work, play, try, learn, rain*. These verbs are often found in the continuous.

*I've cut my finger.* (One short action.)

*I've been cutting firewood.* (Perhaps over several hours.)

### 10.3 Time expressions

Here are some time expressions often found with certain tenses.

#### Past Simple

*I lived in Chicago for six years.*

*I saw Jack two days ago.*

*They slept during the flight.*

*She learnt to speak French while she was at university.*

#### Present Perfect

*We've been married for ten years.*

*They've been living here since June.*

*She hasn't been working since their baby was born.*

#### Future

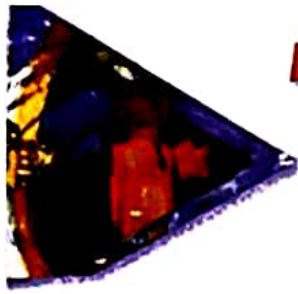
*We're going on vacation for a few days.*

*The class ends in 20 minutes.*

*I'll be home in a half an hour.*

#### Prepositions with dates, months, years, etc.

in	September 1965 summer the holidays the 1920s the 20th century	on	Monday Monday morning 8 August New Year's Day holiday	at	7 o'clock the end of May New Year the age of ten dinner-time
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# 10 Obsessions

Present Perfect Continuous • Time expressions • Compound nouns • Quantity

## TEST YOUR GRAMMAR

1 For each pair, match a line in A with a line or picture in B.

- | A  | B                |
|--|------------------|
| 1 What do you do _____ on the floor?<br>What are you doing _____ for a living?                                   | <del>_____</del> |
| 2 He speaks _____ three languages.<br>He's speaking _____ to the teacher.  | <del>_____</del> |
| 3 She has _____ a baby next month.<br>She's having _____ a house by the sea.                                     | <del>_____</del> |
| 4 What have you done _____ with my pen? I can't find it.<br>What have you been doing _____ since I last saw you? | <del>_____</del> |

5 Who drank my juice? \_\_\_\_\_



Who's been drinking my juice? \_\_\_\_\_



6 I read that book. \_\_\_\_\_ It was really good.  
I was reading that book \_\_\_\_\_ when you called.

2 Look at the second sentence in each pair. What do the verbs have in common?

## TONY'S PHONE BILL

Present Perfect Continuous

1 **T 10.1** Read and listen to the newspaper article. Answer the questions.

- How much was the phone bill?
- Why did his father buy him a mobile?
- What has he done with the phone now?
- Where has Tony been working?

## Dad bans phone after 3,500 texts!

**A** Manchester teenager has received a phone bill for over £450 after sending 3,500 text messages in just one month.

Tony Russell has had his new 'state of the art' mobile phone for only three months, but now his father, Lionel, has taken it away.

'He's been asking me for a mobile for years because all his friends have got one,' explained Lionel. 'I finally bought one for his birthday because he's been doing so well at school, but he and his mates are "texting-crazy". They do it all the time - on buses, in the street. They even text each other from different sides of the school playground. They've got "textitis".'

Tony said 'I thought texting was much cheaper than phoning, so I've been texting my friends all day long and even into the early hours of the morning. I've been going to bed at 2.00 most nights. Sometimes my hand hurt from pressing the buttons so much, but I was having such good fun that I couldn't bear to stop!'

His father said, 'I have forgiven him, but I am angry with the phone company as they are encouraging this craze.' He has made his son promise to pay back the money, so Tony has been working on Saturdays. He has found a job in a shoe shop. So far he has paid back £46. 'I reckon it will take me about a year to clear this debt,' he said.

## the answer

### T 10.4

- 1 A You're covered in paint! What have you been doing?  
B I've been redecorating the bathroom.  
A Have you finished yet?  
B Well, I've painted the door and the ceiling, but I haven't put up the wallpaper yet.
- 2 A Your hands are dirty. What have you been doing?  
B They're filthy. I've been working in the garden.  
A Have you finished yet?  
B Well, I've cut the grass, but I haven't watered the flowers yet.
- 3 A Your eyes are red! What have you been doing?  
B I'm exhausted. I've been revising for my exams.  
A Have you finished them yet?

- A You look happy. What have you been doing?  
B I'm really excited! I've been getting ready to go on holiday.
- A Have you done everything?  
B Well, I've picked up the tickets and I've been to the bank, but I haven't packed yet.

Make similar conversations with a partner.

- 1 A covered in paint/what/do?  
B redecorate the bathroom.  
A finish yet?  
B paint the door and the ceiling/not put up the wallpaper yet.
- 2 A hands dirty/what/do?  
B filthy/work in the garden.  
A finish yet?  
B cut the grass/not water the flowers yet.
- 3 A your eyes red/what/do?  
B exhausted/revise for my exams.  
A finish them yet?  
B do chemistry and history/not do English yet.

**T 10.4** Listen and compare. Practise the conversations again.

### Discussing grammar

- 5 Why are these sentences strange? What would be better?
  - 1 Ouch! I've been cutting my finger.
  - 2 'Why is your hair wet?' 'I've swum.'
  - 3 You've got tears in your eyes. Why have you cried?
  - 4 I'm really sorry, but I've been crashing into the back of your car.
  - 5 I've written my autobiography this afternoon.



## A LIFELONG PASSION

### Time expressions

1 Astrid Johnsson is a cellist. She has had an interesting life so far. Look quickly through the chart of events in her life. What are some of the things she has done?

Age	Life Event
0	Born on 4 March, 1960, in Sweden
3	Started playing the cello
8	Won award for <i>Young Musician of the Year</i> , toured with the Swedish Youth Orchestra
11	August 1971, performed in classical music festival in Stockholm
18–22	Won scholarship and studied at the Royal Academy of Music, London
19	Met her first husband
21	Got married in spring 1981
22	Received Master of Music Degree. Played in world concerts and festivals. Appeared on British TV with the London Symphony Orchestra
23	Daughter born 9 July, 1983
29	Got divorced. Toured Japan, the US, and Canada with the Chamber Orchestra of Great Britain
31	Bought a flat in New York
33–37	Composed concertos and European film soundtracks. Met Georges Leveaux, a conductor
38	3 August, 1998, married Georges; moved to Paris
40	Won <i>Best European Film Soundtrack 1999</i>
42	Began teaching at the Music Centre, in Paris, and working as a visiting lecturer to music schools worldwide
NOW	Still teaching cello and lecturing



# Astrid Johnsson



## PRACTICE

### Questions and answers

1 Ask and answer the questions about Astrid.

- 1 When ... born?
- 2 When ... given the award of *Young Musician of the Year*?
- 3 When ... go to the Royal Academy of Music?
- 4 What ... her daughter born?
- 5 Which countries ... lived in?
- 6 When ... appear on British TV?
- 7 How many children ... ?
- 8 How long ... in Paris?

When was she born?

In 1960.

**T 10.5** Listen and check.

2 Make a similar chart of the event.

the answer

**T 10.5**

- A
- 1 'When was she born?'  
'In 1960.'
  - 2 'When was she given the award of *Young Musician of the Year*'?  
'In 1968, when she was 8 years old.'
  - 3 'When did she go to the *Royal Academy of Music*'?  
'In 1978. She won a scholarship.'
  - 4 'What year was her daughter born?'  
'In 1983.'
  - 5 'Which countries has she lived in?'  
'Sweden, England, the US, and France.'
  - 6 'When did she appear on British TV?'  
'When she was 22.'
  - 7 'How many children has she got?'  
'One daughter.'
  - 8 'How long has she been living in Paris?'  
'Since 1998.'

4 It is Monday of the second week, and Astrid is being interviewed by a journalist. How does she answer these questions?

- 1 How long are you here in Britain for? **Just two weeks.**
- 2 How long have you been in Britain?
- 3 Where were you the day before yesterday?
- 4 Where were you this time last week?
- 5 Where will you be the day after tomorrow?
- 6 Where will you be a week today?

**T 10.6** Listen and check.

Discussing grammar

the answer

**T 10.6** A lecture tour

I = Interviewer, A = Astrid

- 1 I How long are you here in Britain for?  
A Just two weeks.
- 2 I How long have you been in Britain?  
A Eight days.
- 3 I Where were you the day before yesterday?  
A In Birmingham.
- 4 I Where were you this time last week?  
A In London.
- 5 I Where will you be the day after tomorrow?  
A I'll be in Edinburgh.
- 6 I Where will you be a week today?

3 Complete these sentences with the phrases from the box.

- 4 while she was at music school
- 2 after winning the award
- 1 at the age of three
- 7 until she married Georges
- 8 since she married Georges
- 6 while she was composing
- 5 two years after she got married
- 3 between 1978 and 1982

- 1 She started having cello lessons \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ for *Young Musician of the Year*, she toured schools with the Swedish Youth Orchestra.
- 3 She was at the Royal Academy of Music \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 She met her first husband \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 Her daughter was born \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 She met Georges \_\_\_\_\_ concertos and European film soundtracks.
- 7 She lived in New York \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 She's been living in Paris \_\_\_\_\_.

▶▶ Grammar Reference 10.3 p148

**WRITING:** Writing a biography

▶▶ Go to p117



## EVERYDAY ENGLISH

### Expressing quantity

- 1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Some are used more than once.

a few    How many  
a little    enough    too much  
as much as    too many  
all    How much    any  
                                 as many as

- A \_\_\_\_\_ coffee do you drink?  
B At least six cups a day.  
A That's \_\_\_\_\_. You shouldn't drink \_\_\_\_\_ that.
- A \_\_\_\_\_ aspirins do you usually take when you have a headache?  
B About four or five.  
A That's \_\_\_\_\_. You shouldn't take \_\_\_\_\_ that!
- A \_\_\_\_\_ do you earn?  
B Not \_\_\_\_\_ to pay all my bills!
- A \_\_\_\_\_ people are there in your class?  
B Forty.  
A I think that's \_\_\_\_\_.
- A Have you got \_\_\_\_\_ homework tonight?  
B Far \_\_\_\_\_. I'll never be able to do it \_\_\_\_\_.
- A How old are you?  
B Sixteen. I'm old \_\_\_\_\_ to get married, but not old \_\_\_\_\_ to drive!
- A When did you last go to the dentist?  
B Very recently. Just \_\_\_\_\_ days ago.
- A Do you take milk in your tea?  
B Just \_\_\_\_\_.

**T 10.9** Listen and check. Practise the conversations with a partner.

- 2 With your partner, ask and answer the questions in exercise 1 about you.

## the answer

you are item?  
with other people who share the same  
in the other group. Compare and exchange

### T 10.9

- A How much coffee do you drink?  
B At least six cups a day.  
A That's too much. You shouldn't drink as much as that.
- A How many aspirins do you usually take when you have a headache?  
B About four or five.  
A That's too many. You shouldn't take as many as that!
- A How much do you earn?  
B Not enough to pay all my bills!
- A How many people are there in your class?  
B Forty.  
A I think that's too many.
- A Have you got any homework tonight?  
B Far too much. I'll never be able to do it all.
- A How old are you?  
B Sixteen. I'm old enough to get married, but not old enough to drive!
- A When did you last go to the dentist?  
B Very recently. Just a few days ago.
- A Do you take milk in your tea?  
B Just a little.