

Talk a Lot

Intermediate Book 1

Notes on Intermediate Verb Forms

Present Perfect Continuous = recent continuous action

Time of action:	From the past up to the recent past, or up to now (present).
When do we need to use it?	<p>To describe a recent continuous action, e.g. to catch up with a friend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>What have you been doing all morning?</i>- <i>I've been putting up wallpaper.</i> <p>[It's not clear from my words whether I've finished the whole job, e.g. I might have stopped for a break.]</p> <p>To describe an action that has been continuing for a period of time and is still going on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>How long have you been living in Bristol?</i>- <i>I've been living here for six years.</i>
How is it formed?	have (aux.) + been + present participle (-ing verb)
Contractions in spoken English:	<p>I have been ⇒ I've been /əv.bɪn/ she has been ⇒ she's been /ʃə.zbɪn/</p>
Examples:	
Positive Form	Kay's been washing dirty sheets in the hotel laundry all morning.
Negative Form	Kay hasn't been washing dirty sheets in the hotel laundry all morning.
Question Form	Has Kay been washing dirty sheets in the hotel laundry all morning?
Answers:	Yes, she has . / No, she hasn't .
Passive form:	Rare, but possible, e.g. The car's been being fixed for hours!
Used with state verbs?	No, e.g. <i>I've been liking this film a lot!</i> = <i>I've liked this film a lot since...</i>
Tips:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This form highlights the time period or duration of the action.• It is often used with a time clause to describe duration, e.g. "for x weeks / years" or "since" + day, date, or time, as well as with "...recently", "...lately", "...all day", "this morning/afternoon", etc.