



Present perfect simple: We use it when the result of the action is relevant, important.

Present perfect continuous: We use it to describe how somebody or something has been occupying their time. We also use it for actions which are incomplete or ongoing at the moment of speaking.

EXERCISE 1: Fill the gaps with either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous tenses using the verb in brackets.

1. That old farm now looks fantastic. The new owners _____ completely _____ it.(restore)
2. I guess Tommy and Alice are dating. They _____ a lot of each other recently.(see)
3. We've discovered this new pub in the neighbourhood and we _____ there quite a lot.(go)
4. How's your mother? I _____ her for ages.(not/see)
5. You're covered in mud, Peter. What _____ you _____?(do)
6. Where have you been? I _____ for over an hour.(wait)
7. I have to write a complaint letter to the Council but I _____ only _____ about half so far.(write). It's so hard to find the right words.
8. A: How long _____ (be) in Greece?
B: I _____ (study) here for more than two years now.
9. Paula's gone to the doctor's. She _____ too well lately.(not/feel)
10. I _____ (have) the same car for more than twelve years. I'm thinking about buying a new one. But I can't make up my mind about the brand.
11. I _____ (love) chocolate since I was a child. I'm worried in case I'm a "chocaholic".
12. Ely and Ralph _____ (have) some difficulties in their relationship recently, so they _____ (go) to a marriage consultant. I hope everything ends up well.
13. My husband _____ (work) for this firm of attorneys since he graduated from University. Until recently, he _____ (enjoy) his work, but now he is talking about retiring.
14. My garden's a jungle. I _____ any gardening for several months.(not/do)
15. Lately, I _____ (think) about looking for another job because I _____ (become) dissatisfied with the working conditions and the pay at my company.

EXERCISE 2: Fill the gaps with either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous

1. My sister _____ (fail) her driving test four times because she's hopeless at reversing. But she _____ (practise) reversing for the last week and I think she _____ (get) a bit better at it.
2. I _____ (do) housework all morning and I _____ (not, finish) yet. I _____ (do) mine already. I always start at 8 a.m.
3. Andrew: I _____ (often, wonder) why Charles quitted his job at such an important company so suddenly.
Peter: Actually, I _____ (just, find) out. Shall I tell you? I'm afraid you wouldn't like to know.
4. Why _____ you _____ (not, bring) me the letters to sign? _____ you _____ (not, type) them yet? Remember we have to post them today.
5. A pair of reddish birds _____ (build) a nest on that tree since last week. I _____ (watch) them from my window since they began and it's amazing to see how they do it.
6. The police _____ (not find) the arsonist yet, but Tom's brother-in-law _____ (be) in the police station all day. It is said that he _____ (help) them with their enquiries since he is an expert in forest fires.
7. They _____ (pull) down most of the old buildings in this street, but they _____ (not/touch) the old corner shop yet.
8. My brother is convinced that there is money from the train robbery hidden in the building but we _____ (search) for three months and _____ (not, see) any sign of it.
9. He _____ (sing) carols since six o'clock this morning. He _____ (only just stop). What a relief!
10. I _____ (wait) for the prices of luxury cars to come down before buying one, but I think I _____ (wait) for too long and the prices are beginning to go up again.
11. Paul _____ (be) a bell boy at a hotel for three years. Lately he _____ (look) for a better post but so far he _____ (not, find) anything.



12. Jeff: _____ you _____ (sunbathe)?
Mary: Don't be ridiculous! It _____ (rain) all day! Haven't you looked out of the window or are you pulling my leg?
13. I _____ (just, pick) six kilos of apples! I _____ (grow) apples for years but I _____ (never, have) such a good crop before.
14. What _____ you _____ (do) with the knife? The point is broken off. I'm afraid I _____ (use) it to make holes in this tuna tin. It's impossible to open it in any other way.
15. She _____ (just, sell) two of her own tablecloths. She's lucky. I _____ (sew) them for six years and I _____ (not, sell) a single tablecloth yet.
16. A: They are yelling at each other in the next door flat.
B: _____ this _____ (happen) before?
A: Well, they _____ (have) a good many rows but this is the fourth time they _____ (make) so much noise.
17. Robert: You _____ (telephone) for ages. _____ you nearly _____ (not, finish)?
Tom: I _____ (not get) through yet. I _____ (try) to get my cousin's office in Lisbon but the line _____ (be) engaged all morning.
18. A: What _____ you _____ (do) with my new laptop? I can't find it anywhere.
B: James _____ (just, go) home with it. He says he'll bring it back when he _____ (finish) doing his web quest.
19. Taylor _____ (work) for British Airways for nearly forty years and he _____ (be) never late. The company _____ (just, present) him with a gold pen as a sign of their appreciation.
20. We _____ (mend) tights all morning but we only _____ (do) four, and now the sewing machine _____ (break) down so we'll be even slower with the next one.



KEY TO THE EXERCISES

Exercise 1.

1. have completely restored
2. They've been seeing
3. we've been going
4. I haven't seen
5. have you been doing?
6. I've been waiting
7. I've written
8. have you been/have been studying.
9. She hasn't been feeling
10. have had
11. have loved
12. have had/have gone
13. has been working/has enjoyed
14. I haven't done
15. have been thinking/have become



Exercise 2.

1. has failed/ has been practising/has got
2. Have you been sunbathing/ has been raining-has rained
3. have often wondered/ have just found out
4. haven't you brought/Haven't you typed
5. have been building/ have been watching-have watched
6. haven't found/ has been/ has been helping
7. have pulled down/haven't touched
8. have searched-have been searching/haven't seen
9. has been playing/ has only just stopped
10. have been waiting/ have waited
11. has been/ has been looking/ hasn't found
12. have been doing/ haven't finished /have done
13. have just picked/ have grown/have been growing/have never had
14. have you been doing/ have been using
15. has just sold/ have been sewing/haven't sold
16. Has this happened/have had/ have made
17. have been telephoning/ Haven't you nearly finished/ haven't got/ have been trying/ has been
18. have you done/ has just gone/has finished
19. has worked-has been working/has never once been/ have has just presented
20. have been mending-have mended/ have only done/ has broken down