

PRACTICAL LESSON

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

Lesson category: Mësimet në gjuhë angleze

Use have or has been plus verb-ing to stress how long an activity has lasted or to explain visible evidence. Covers since, for and How long, repeated activity, and the stative verbs that avoid this form.

Present Perfect Continuous Tense

The present perfect continuous is built from **have / has been + verb-ing**. Where the present perfect looks at a *result*, this tense looks at the *activity itself*: how long it has gone on, whether it is still going on, and what evidence it has left behind.

Learning objectives

- Form the tense correctly for all subjects.
- Use it for duration, repeated activity and visible evidence.
- Ask and answer **How long ...?** with *since* and *for*.
- Know which verbs avoid this form.

Meaning and usage

Use	Example	Focus
Duration up to now	<i>I've been working here for five years.</i>	how long
Activity still in progress	<i>She's been studying since this morning.</i>	and still is
Recently finished, with evidence	<i>You've been running — you're out of breath.</i>	the visible result
Repeated activity	<i>He's been calling me all week.</i>	again and again
Explaining a present situation	<i>The ground is wet. It's been raining.</i>	cause of what we see
Annoyance or emphasis	<i>I've been waiting for an hour!</i>	emotional colouring

The form

Subject	Affirmative	Negative	Question
I / you / we / they	I've been waiting	I haven't been waiting	Have you been waiting?
he / she / it	he's been waiting	he hasn't been waiting	Has he been waiting?

Short answers use the auxiliary only: Yes, **I have**. / No, **he hasn't**. The **-ing** spelling rules are the same as for the present continuous.

How long, since and for

Question	Answer with since	Answer with for
<i>How long</i> have you been learning English?	Since 2020.	For four years.
<i>How long</i> has she been waiting?	Since ten o'clock.	For twenty minutes.

Since marks the starting point; **for** marks the length. Both answer *How long*?

Verbs that avoid this form

Stative verbs — *know, believe, understand, like, love, own, belong* — do not take the continuous even here. With them, use the plain present perfect:

- *I've known her for ten years.* — not *I've been knowing*
- *We've had this car since 2019.* — possession, not *been having*

Live and **work** are special: both forms are correct and the meaning barely differs. *I've lived / I've been living here for years.*

A comparison with the present perfect

Present perfect	Present perfect continuous
<i>I've read three chapters.</i> — how many	<i>I've been reading all evening.</i> — how long
<i>She's written the report.</i> — it's finished	<i>She's been writing the report.</i> — maybe not finished
<i>They've painted the kitchen.</i> — result	<i>They've been painting the kitchen.</i> — that's why there's paint everywhere

Signal words

for, since, how long, all day, all morning, lately, recently, these past few weeks.

Common mistakes

Mistake	Correct	Why
<i>I am working here for five years.</i>	I've been working here for five years.	the period reaches the present
<i>She has been knowing him for years.</i>	She has known him for years.	stative verb
<i>I've been finishing my homework.</i>	I've finished my homework.	completion needs the simple perfect
<i>How long are you waiting?</i>	How long have you been waiting?	duration up to now
<i>He has been played football since 2010.</i>	He has been playing football since 2010.	<i>been + -ing</i>

Learning tips

1. If the natural question is *How long?*, this tense is usually right.
2. Look for evidence: wet ground, tired eyes, paint on hands. That is this tense's territory.

3. Keep *since* with points and *for* with periods.

Summary checklist

- Is the structure **have/has been + -ing**?
- Am I emphasising duration or activity rather than a finished result?
- Is the verb dynamic, not stative?
- Is *since* with a point and *for* with a length?

Shpjegim në gjuhën shqipe

Rregulli i anglishtes, i shpjeguar në shqip

Kjo kohë ndërtohet me **have** ose **has** plus **been** plus foljen me **-ing**. Folja ndihmëse ndryshon sipas vetës, kurse *been* mbetet gjithmonë e njëjtë.

Ndërsa koha e kryer e thjeshtë shikon **rezultatit**, kjo shikon **vetë veprimtarinë**: sa gjatë ka vazhduar, a vazhdon ende, dhe çfarë gjurmësh ka lënë.

Përdoret në pesë raste: kohëzgjatje deri në çastin e tanishëm; veprimtari që vazhdon ende; veprim i sapopërfunduar që ka lënë shenja të dukshme; veprim i përsëritur; dhe shpjegim i një gjendjeje të tanishme.

Pyetja natyrore e kësaj kohe është **How long ...?** Përgjigjja jepet me *since* për një pikë në kohë ose me *for* për një kohëzgjatje.

Foljet e gjendjes nuk e marrin këtë formë. Foljet *live* dhe *work* janë përjashtim: te ato të dyja format janë njësoj të sakta.

Ekuivalenti në gjuhën shqipe

Forma **have / has been + verb-ing** nuk ka një ekuivalent të drejtpërdrejtë në gjuhën shqipe. Shqipja e shpreh të njëjtin kuptim me **kohën e tashme + prej ose që nga**, ose me ndërtimin *kam qenë duke ...*, i cili është më i rrallë.

Anglisht	Shqip
<i>I have been working here for five years.</i>	Punoj këtu prej pesë vjetësh.
<i>She has been studying since morning.</i>	Ajo studion që nga mëngjesi.
<i>It has been raining all day.</i>	Ka rënë shi gjithë ditën.
<i>How long have you been waiting?</i>	Sa kohë ke pritur ?

Kujdes: mos e përktheni me *po*. Fjalja *I have been working here for five years* nuk do të thotë *po punoj tani*, por tregon **kohëzgjatjen** deri në këtë çast.

Përdorimet

Përdorimi	Anglisht	Shqip
Kohëzgjatje deri tani	<i>I've been working here for years.</i>	Punoj këtu prej vitesh.
Veprim ende në zhvillim	<i>She's been studying all morning.</i>	Ajo studion që nga mëngjesi.

Përdorimi	Anglisht	Shqip
Shenja të dukshme	<i>You've been running — you're out of breath.</i>	Ke vrapuar — je pa frymë.
Veprim i përsëritur	<i>He's been calling me all week.</i>	Ai më ka marrë në telefon gjithë javën.
Shpjegim i gjendjes	<i>The ground is wet. It's been raining.</i>	Toka është e lagur. Ka rënë shi.

Since dhe for

Anglisht	Shqip	Shembull
since + pikë në kohë	që nga	<i>since 2020 — që nga viti 2020</i>
for + kohëzgjatje	prej	<i>for four years — prej katër vjetësh</i>
How long ...?	Sa kohë ...?	<i>How long have you been learning English?</i>

Foljet që nuk e marrin këtë formë

Foljet e gjendjes qëndrojnë në të kryerën e thjeshtë edhe këtu:

- **I have known** her for ten years. — E njoh prej dhjetë vjetësh. (jo «have been knowing»)
- **We have had** this car since 2019. — E kemi këtë makinë që nga viti 2019.

Foljet *live* dhe *work* janë përjashtim: të dyja format janë të sakta dhe kuptimi nuk ndryshon.

Gabime të zakonshme të folësve të shqipes

Gabimi	E saktë	Pse
<i>I am working here for five years.</i>	I have been working here for five years.	periudha arrin deri tani
<i>She has been knowing him.</i>	She has known him.	folje gjendjeje
<i>How long are you waiting?</i>	How long have you been waiting?	kohëzgjatje deri tani
<i>I've been finishing my work.</i>	I've finished my work.	përfundimi kërkon të kryerën e thjeshtë