



PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Grammar:

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

The **PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS** has 2 uses: when we want to focus on an activity that started in the past and is ongoing, or when we want to refer to the result of activities which have recently finished(= their present consequences).

The pattern is: **Subject + HAVE/HAS BEEN +Ving**

Example: They've been working hard.

She hasn't been feeling sick.

1/ Activity

The action started in the past but is still ongoing. The context helps clear the doubt.

Example: We have been waiting all day. (=the wait has ended or is still ongoing)

2/ The result of the activity

The action has finished but the present bears its consequences.

Examples: She has been running so she is still out of breath. Please give her a seat and some water.

3/ HOW LONG ...?

When we want to ask questions to know the duration or when the start of an action is, we use HOW LONG.

The pattern is: **HOW LONG+ HAVE/HAS + Subject + v ?**

Example: How long have you been staying in New Orleans?

How long have they been working for the company?

How long has she been feeling sick?



The activity has ended or is still ongoing. Once again, the context will clear the doubt we may have.

4/ FOR and SINCE

When we ask the question HOW LONG...? The answer which follows, will include FOR or SINCE.

a) FOR

FOR is a time marker. The reference after FOR is the time spent until now, the duration of the activity. I have been working for 5hours= I have been working for 300minutes.

b) SINCE

Since is also a time marker. The reference that follows SINCE is the date or the time when the activity has started.

Examples:

I have been playing the piano since Christmas /since my childhood. (Since + Noun)

It is 5pm. I have been playing the piano since 9 am/ since the morning(Since+time)
(= I have been playing for 8hours)

I have been playing the piano since I met Steve.

(Since + clause: the verb which follows SINCE usually is at the PRETERIT)



Dialogue:

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN WAITING?

- Wentworth: Is there a reason why the line is longer than usual today? I have only got a 45 minute lunch break ...
- Sarah: They made an announcement earlier ...To inform us of the reason for the extended wait.. This morning, as the cooks came to work, they realized two fridges and a freezer had stopped working, probably since the weekend ... Consequently, they were forced to dispose of the food and dishes stored in the 3 appliances...
- Wentworth: Oh really?
- Sarah: They were not sure as to how long the food had been defrosting so...
- Wentworth: How long have you been waiting?
- Sarah: I have been waiting since 12:35. I have time so I don't mind waiting. Besides, today's menu looks good. Raw vegetables as starters, macaroni cheese as main dish and fruit salad for dessert.
- Wentworth: If you've been waiting for 25 minutes, that means we will get served around 13.15...
- Sarah: Hopefully
- Wentworth: I can't wait that long. I've already lost 10minutes to come here
- Sarah: What are you going to do?
- Wentworth: I'll go to the bakery across the street and buy a sandwich.
- Sarah: Are you sure? It is going to be more expensive, and probably half as good as this.
- Wentworth: I don't really mind. I still need to arrange this afternoon's classroom. And submit a form to borrow an OHP
- Sarah: An OHP?
- Wentworth: An overhead projector for the digital documents I will show the class.
- Sarah: Well, then I guess it is the best option you have. I hope you won't find any lines at the shop though
- Wentworth: I had a look earlier and there wasn't anyone. I'll take a chance! Enjoy your meal, Sarah and see you later in the week!
- Sarah: Bon appétit! Have a nice day!
- Wentworth: Thank you very much. Bye!