

Present Perfect Continuous and Present Perfect Simple

We use both the Present Perfect Simple and Present Perfect Continuous to talk about actions, states or activities which happened in an unfinished period of time and have some connection to now.

I've been to Paris. (some time before now)

I've lost my keys. (it happened some time before now and they are still lost)

I've been waiting for him. (I started in the past and I'm still waiting)

We use the Present Perfect Continuous ...

- 1 to emphasise how long something has taken.
I've been waiting for ages.
- 2 to indicate that an activity or situation is temporary.
I've been living here for a few months now.
Compare with
I've lived here all my life.
- 3 to emphasise the repetition of an activity.
I've been ringing and ringing you!

Verb patterns with -ing and infinitive

- 1 Verbs followed by -ing: verbs of feeling, e.g. *can't stand, like, love, enjoy, don't mind, hate, adore*
- 2 Verbs followed by the infinitive: verbs about future plans, e.g. *agree, promise, want, choose, decide, hope, expect, plan, would like, refuse, prefer*
- 3 Many verbs can use the pattern: verb + *somebody* + *to* + infinitive, e.g. *allow, help, want, remind, would like, advise, invite, tell*
- 4 Some verbs can be followed by both forms but the meaning may change.

Countable and uncountable nouns

Countable

A countable noun can be singular or plural. We can count countable nouns (one apple, two apples, etc.).
She eats an apple a day. I love eating apples.

Uncountable

Uncountable nouns have only one form, no singular or plural. We cannot count uncountable nouns.

In Asia, people eat rice with every meal.

We cannot say *a rice*, so we specify *a ... of ...*
a bowl of rice, a bottle of water ...

Uncountable nouns are generally not used in the plural, e.g. *information, advice, furniture, equipment, travel.*

Can I have some information? NOT: *informations*

Some uncountable nouns are used only in plural form, e.g. *scissors, jeans, news.*

I bought some jeans/a pair of jeans. NOT: *a-jeans*

Some uncountable nouns can be used as both countable and uncountable. Sometimes this is because we understand a certain quantity is meant.

Can I have a (cup of) coffee?

Sometimes the meaning changes, e.g. *chocolate, ice cream, hair, noise, room, time, chicken, lamb, potato.*

Quantifiers

Before countable nouns, we use *a few, a couple, some, a lot of* and *many* in positive sentences.

Before uncountable nouns, we use *a little, some* and *a lot of* in positive sentences.

Any, much and *many* are usually used in negative sentences and questions.

Key vocabulary

Leisure activities

aerobics a musical instrument athletics camping
cards climbing computer games dancing
drawing exercise jogging karate painting
photography sailing skiing snowboarding
socialising squash surfing volleyball

Equipment

belt board boots brush canvas costume goggles
helmet net poles racquet rope saddle trainers

Responding to a picture

colourful depressing disturbing intriguing odd
sad striking unusual vivid

Describing pastimes

Theatre: adapted from amazing spectacle applause
audience lighting lyrics melody on stage
puppet score sound effect steal the show
tell the story of well-rounded

Books: a classic atmosphere author

beautifully written best-seller chapter character
couldn't put it down description dialogue is set in
out of print page turner plot take your breath away

Film: album fan heart throb leading character
performance play the role of plot sequel
soundtrack star as

Describing food

It's ... grilled/baked/boiled/fried/made with .../made by
+ verb + -ing/stuffed with .../served with .../hot/cold.



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