

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS



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.
16. I _____ (see) Mandy for more than three years now and during this time I _____ (see) many changes in her personality.
17. I'm really exhausted. I _____ in the garden all morning.(work)

EXERCISE 2: Instructions as in the previous exercise.

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 webquest.

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.

Exercise 3. Put the verbs in bracket in the correct form, either present perfect simple or present perfect continuous.

1. I(look) through my Primary School photo album. It's full of photographs of people whose names I completely(forget). I wonder what(happen) to them all.

2. Since he became the Company Director, my brother estimates that he(eat) 50 official lunches and another 50 official dinners, and he(lose) count of the number of receptions and parties that he..... (attend). Besides he (put on) a lot of weight.

3. Secretary: Customers(ring) up all morning complaining about getting incorrect bills.
Manager: I know. Something..... (go) wrong with our computer. The mechanic..... (work) on it, I hope he(find) out what's wrong soon.

4. It is the first time you(be) late with the rent in 25 years. How come your landlord hasn't said anything? He probably thinks that you..... (pay) and he..... (lose) the cheque. He's so absent-minded!

5. Someone(use) my new umbrella! It's all wet! And it was wet yesterday and the day before!

Well, it wasn't me. I(not be) out of the house for nearly a week!

6. I(stand) in this queue for over half an hour. It..... (not move) at all in the last ten minutes. I think the girl in the ticket office just.....(shut) her window and..... (go) off for a coffee break.

7. The Town Council(consider) my application for permission to build a garage for two months. They just(give) my next door neighbour permission to build his, so I hope they will decide to let me have one too.

8. I just(remember) that I..... (not pay) the electricity bill yet. I am surprised that the company(not ring) me up to remind me.
9. -You look exhausted! Have you been exercising?
-Yes, I(play) football and I..... (not play) for years, so I'm not used to it.
10. They began widening this road a month ago; but the workmen..... (be) on strike for the last ten days so they..... (not get) very far with it.
11. That man..... (stand) at the bus stop for the last half hour. Do you think I should tell him that the last bus already..... (go)?
12. I wonder if anything(happen) to Penny. I(wait) an hour now. She often(keep) me waiting but she never(be) so late as today.
13. Mr O'Hara(live) next door for quite a long time now but he never(say) more than 'Good morning' to me. He looks rather unfriendly.
14. It was sunny at nine o'clock, but since then the sky(get) darker and the wind(rise). I'm afraid the fine spell..... (come) to an end. Most probably we won't be able to sunbathe today.
15. Shop assistant: Could I have your identity card, madam?
Customer: But I(shop) here for ten years!
Shop assistant: I know, madam, but apparently the company(lose) a lot of money lately through fake cheques and they..... (make) new regulations which we(be told) to apply to all customers no matter how long we(know) them. I'm so sorry for the inconvenience.
16. What you..... (do)? I..... (look) for you for ages.
I(build) a shed for my tools in the garden.
17. Paul (collect) owls ever since he left school. Now he(collect) so many that he doesn't know where to keep them.

