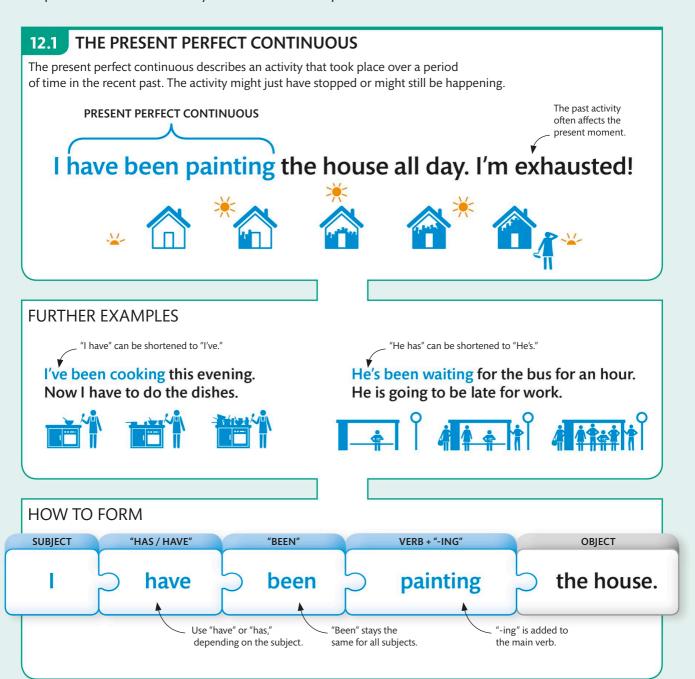
12 The present perfect continuous

The present perfect continuous is used to talk about a continuing activity in the past that still has an effect on the present moment. It usually refers to the recent past.

See also:

Past simple 7 Present perfect simple 11 Infinitives and participles 51



12.2 THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS AND THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

The present perfect continuous is used to show that an activity in the past was in progress. It is possible that the activity is still taking place.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

I've been fixing my car. I'm covered in oil.



The present perfect simple is used to show that an activity in the past is finished.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE



I've fixed my car. Now I can drive to work again.



FURTHER EXAMPLES

I've been cooking dinner. It will be ready soon.



Vicky has been running today. Now she's really tired!



I've been eating too much cake. I must eat less!



We've been looking at houses. We want to move.





I've cooked dinner. It's ready now.



Vicky has just run a race. Now she's receiving a medal.



I've eaten all the cake. The plate is empty.



We've bought a new house. We're moving in June.