

EXERCISES

1 Complete the sentences with the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb. (A)

- 1 The situation continues to be serious, and troops.....their lives to rescue people from the floods.
- 2 Mary hasn't been at work for a while. She.....her husband get over a serious illness.
- 3 I.....very hard for this exam. I hope I do well.
- 4 Because the children are older, we.....of moving to a bigger house.
- 5 I.....this suitcase around with me all day, and it's really heavy.
- 6 For several years now, Glasgow.....citywide festivals to celebrate the cultures of other countries. This year the focus is on Sweden.

2 Rewrite each sentence using the present perfect continuous form of an appropriate verb and for or since. If necessary, look at the verbs below to help you. (A)

- 1 Henry moved to California three years ago.
Henry has been living in California for three years.
- 2 The project to send astronauts to Mars began in 1991.
.....
- 3 Campbell began a life sentence for murder in 1992.
.....
- 4 Colin James took over as head of the company six months ago.
.....
- 5 Graham's knee injury began at the US Open earlier this year.
.....
- 6 Local authorities began to invest heavily in new computer systems at the beginning of the 1990s.
.....

go on invest live run serve suffer

Underline the correct alternative. (B)

- 1 Bullfighting is going on / has been going on in Spain for centuries.
- 2 I always find / have always been finding it difficult to get up on winter mornings.
- 3 I have been wanting / want to meet you since I saw your concert.
- 4 Over the last six months I've been learning / I'm learning how to play the flute.
- 5 The phone's been ringing / phone's ringing. Can you answer it.
- 6 How long have you learned / have you been learning Swahili?
- 7 During the last few years the company has been working / works hard to modernise its image.

If the underlined verbs are correct, put a ✓. If they are wrong, correct them using either the past continuous or the present perfect continuous as appropriate. (C)

- 1 I was expecting the book to end happily, but in fact it was really sad. /
- 2 The opposition groups were fighting the government on this issue for years, but so far without success.
- 3 The protesters have been campaigning for some months now to prevent the new road being built.
- 4 He has been looking nervous until I told him to sit down and relax.
- 5 Work to repair the bridge has been continuing throughout this summer.
- 6 Before she retrained as a computer programmer she has been working as a secretary.
- 7 I was receiving the magazine for some time and enjoy reading it immensely.
- 8 I was turning to leave when she said, 'Maybe you'd like to stay for dinner.'

EXERCISES

8.1 Complete the sentences with these verbs, using the same one for each sentence in the pair. Use the present perfect in one sentence and the present perfect continuous in the other. (A)

claim disappear give move stop

- 1 a An important file _____ from my office.
b Plants and vegetables _____ from my garden since we had new neighbours.
- 2 a Dr Fletcher _____ the same lecture to students for the last ten years.
b Mr Goldman _____ nearly a million pounds to the charity this year.
- 3 a With their win yesterday, Italy _____ into second place in the table.
b As house prices in the cities have risen, people _____ into the countryside.
- 4 a For years he _____ that he is related to the royal family.
b The earthquake _____ over 5000 lives.
- 5 a All day, the police _____ motorists to question them about the accident.
b Good, the noise _____ I can start concentrating on my work again.

8.2 Choose the most appropriate sentence ending. (B)

1 I've swum...	a and I feel exhausted.
2 I've been swimming...	b thirty lengths of the pool.
3 They have asked me...	a to visit them for ages, but I've never had the time.
4 They have been asking me...	b to join the company on a number of occasions.
5 I have visited Vienna...	a three or four times before.
6 I've been visiting Vienna...	b since 1990 and I've always felt very safe here.
7 We've stayed...	a at this hotel a couple of times before.
8 We've been staying...	b at a small hotel near the sea.

8.3 Complete these sentences using the verb given. If possible, use the present perfect continuous; if not, use the present perfect. Use *h* to add any words outside the space. (C)

- 1 Since they were very young, the children _____ (enjoy) travelling by plane.
- 2 It _____ (snow) heavily since this morning.
- 3 I'm pleased to say that the team _____ (play) well all season.
- 4 I never _____ (understand) why we have to pay so much tax.
- 5 I _____ (not read) any of Dickens' novels.
- 6 In recent years, Brazilian companies _____ (put) a lot of money into developing advanced technology.

8.4 Complete the sentences to describe the information in the graph. Use the verb given. (D)

<p>1 Inflation _____ since _____ (fall)</p>	<p>2 Industrial output _____ from _____ in _____ to _____ today. (grow)</p>
<p>3 The number of deaths from lung cancer _____ since _____ (rise)</p>	<p>4 Production of wool _____ by _____ since _____ (decline)</p>