

# UNIT 1

## Present Forms

GARDNER PRIMARY 3  
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### Present Perfect

#### FORM

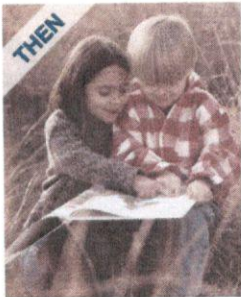
I/You **have ('ve)** left/arrived.  
 He/She/It **has ('s)** left/arrived.  
**Have you left/arrived?** Yes, I have./No, I haven't.  
 You **have not (haven't)** left/arrived.  
 He/She/It **has not (hasn't)** left/arrived.

### Use

The present perfect and the present perfect continuous connect the past and the present. That is, they describe actions which started in the past and continue up to the present or actions which were completed in the past but whose results affect the present.

- ◆ The **present perfect** is used to describe an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with **state verbs** such as *have, like, know, be*, etc. In this case, we often use *for* and *since*.

*They **have been** friends **for** twenty years. (They met each other twenty years ago and they are still friends.)*



- ◆ The **present perfect** is also used for an action which has recently finished and whose result is visible in the present.

*She **has picked** a lot of apples. (The apples are in the basket, so the action has finished.)*



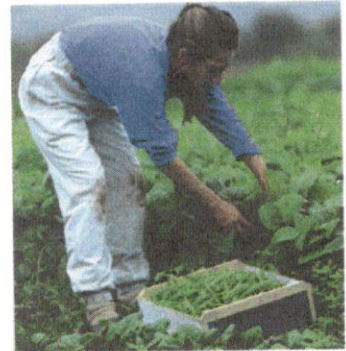
### Present Perfect Continuous

#### FORM

I/You **have ('ve) been** reading.  
 He/She/It **has ('s) been** reading.  
**Have you been reading?** Yes, I have./No, I haven't.  
**Has he/she been reading?**  
 You **have not (haven't) been** reading.  
 He/She/It **has not (hasn't) been** reading.

- ◆ The **present perfect continuous** is used to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started in the past and continues up to the present, especially with time expressions such as *for, since, all morning/day/week, etc.*

*Sarah **has been picking** vegetables for two hours. (She started picking vegetables two hours ago and she is still picking them now.)*



- ◆ The **present perfect continuous** is also used for an action which started and finished in the past and lasted for some time. The result of the action is visible in the present.

*He is dirty. He **has been playing** football. (He is no longer playing football, but the fact that his clothes are dirty is visible now.)*



**Note:** With the verbs *feel* (have a particular emotion), *live*, *work* and *teach* we can use the present perfect or present perfect continuous with no difference in meaning.

e.g. *He **has felt/has been feeling** unwell all morning.*

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◆ The **present perfect** is used for an action which happened at an unstated time in the past. The exact time is not important, so it is not mentioned. The emphasis is placed on the action.

- a) He **has broken** his arm. (The exact time is not mentioned. What is important is the fact that his arm is broken.)
- b) Peter **has been** to Paris four times. (The exact time of each of his visits is not mentioned. What is important is the fact that he has visited Paris four times.)



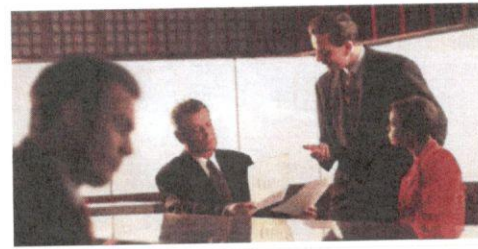
◆ The **present perfect** is also used for an action which has happened within a specific time period, which is not over at the moment of speaking, such as **today, this morning/afternoon/week/month/year, etc.**

- She **has received** three faxes **this morning**. (The action has been repeated three times up to now and may happen again because the time period - this morning - is not over yet.)
- She **received** three faxes **this morning**. (The time period - this morning - is over. It is now afternoon or evening).



◆ The **present perfect continuous** is used to express anger, annoyance or irritation.

Who **has been reading** my business papers? (The speaker is irritated.)



Both the present perfect and the present perfect continuous are used with the following **time expressions**:

- **how long**  
e.g. **How long have you known** Jack?  
**How long have you been learning** English?
- **for (duration)**  
e.g. I **have known** Jack **for** five years.  
I **have not seen** Emily **for** a long time.  
She **has been working** here **for** twenty years.
- **since (starting point)**  
e.g. They **have been married since** last April.  
We **have been living** here **since** 1980.  
I **have not talked** to Ann **since** last Sunday.
- **lately/recently**  
e.g. **Have you seen** any good films **lately/recently**?  
She **has been going out** a lot **lately/recently**.

The present perfect is usually used with the following **time expressions**:

- **already**  
e.g. We **have already seen** this film.  
**Have you finished already?**
- **yet**  
e.g. **Has Roger left yet?** Simon **has not finished yet**.
- **just** e.g. I **have just phoned** Jill.
- **always**  
e.g. She **has always loved** animals.
- **ever**  
e.g. **Have you ever been** abroad?
- **never**  
e.g. She **has never been** to France.
- **so far**  
e.g. I **have sent** twenty invitations **so far**.  
**What have you done so far?**