

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

A

☞ Kate's clothes are covered in paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.

- ✓ *We are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the ceiling) has not been finished.*

☞ My hands are very dirty. I **have been repairing** the car.

☞ Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.

☞ **Have you been playing** tennis?

B

☞ How long **have you been reading** that book?

- ✓ *We use the present perfect continuous to say how long (for an activity that is still happening)*

☞ They **have been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.

☞ Lisa is still writing letters. She **has been writing** letters all day.

C

☞ That woman **has been standing** out there for ten minutes.

- ✓ *We use the present perfect continuous for shorter temporary situations.*

☞ I **have been living** with my sister while my flat has been redecorated.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

A

☞ The ceiling was white. Now it is red. She **has painted** the ceiling.

- ✓ *Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. Has painted is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted ceiling), not the activity itself.*

☞ The car is OK now. I **have repaired** it.

☞ Somebody **has eaten** all my chocolates. The box is empty.

☞ **Have you ever played** tennis?

B

☞ How much of that book **have you read**?

- ✓ *We use the present perfect simple to say how much or how many (for completed actions)*

☞ They **have played** tennis three times this week.

☞ Lisa **has written** ten letters today.

C

☞ That statue **has stood** in the square for two hundred years.

- ✓ *We use the present perfect simple for longer or permanent situations.*

☞ I **have lived** in England for twenty five years.