

## The Perfect Continuous Tenses

- Present Perfect Continuous
- Past Perfect Continuous
- Future Perfect Continuous

### Present Perfect Continuous

#### Verb form:

Auxiliary verb **to have** (has/have) **been** + **present participle**

*Present perfect tense of the verb **to be** + **the present** participle of the main verb.*

<b>Affirmative</b>	<b>Interrogative</b>	<b>Negative</b>
I have been studying. He has been studying. She has been studying. It has been studying. We have been studying. You have been studying. They have been studying.	Have I been studying? Has he been studying? Has she been studying? Has it been studying? Have we been studying? Have you been studying? Have they been studying?	I have not been studying. He has not been studying. She has not been studying. It has not been studying. We have not been studying. You have not been studying. They have not been studying.

#### Contractions:

I have	I've
He has/ she has/ it has	He's/she's/it's
We have/ you have/ they have/	We've/you've/they've
Has not	Hasn't
Have not	Haven't

**Present Perfect indicates that they have completed an action.**

e.g. I have done my homework.  
I have studied English. I know it now.

**Present Perfect Continuous doesn't indicate that an action has been completed.**

e.g. I have been doing my homework.  
I have been studying English for five years.

**It denotes an action which began in the past, has been going on up to the present and may still be going on.**

## Past Perfect Continuous

**Verb form:**

Auxiliary verb **had been** + **past participle**

*Present perfect tense of the verb to be + the past participle of the main verb.*

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I had been studying. He had been studying. She had been studying. It had been studying. We had been studying. You had been studying. They had been studying.	Had been studying? Had he been studying? Had she been studying? Had it been studying? Had we been studying? Had you been studying? Had they been studying?	I had not been studying. He had not been studying. She had not been studying. It had not been studying. We had not been studying. You had not been studying. They had not been studying.

**Contractions:**

I had	I'd
He had/ she had/ it had	He'd/she'd/it'd
We had/ you had/ they had/	We'd/you'd/they'd
Had not	Hadn't

**Past Perfect Continuous** expresses an action which began before a given past moment and continued into it or up to it. It also denotes an action which was in progress just before a given past moment and its effect tells on the past situation in some way.

e.g. They had been sailing for ten days when at last they saw land.

I had been teaching English since I graduated from University.

## Future Perfect Continuous

**Verb form:**

Auxiliary verb **will/shall have been + present participle**

*Future perfect tense of the verb **to be + the present** participle of the main verb.*

Affirmative	Interrogative	Negative
I shall have been studying. He will have been studying. She will have been studying. It will have been studying. We shall have been studying. You will have been studying. They will have been studying.	Shall I have I been studying? Will he have been studying? Will she have been studying? Will it have been studying? Shall we have been studying? Will you have been studying? Will they have been studying?	I shall not have been studying. He will not have been studying. She will not have been studying. It will not have been studying. We shall not have been studying. You will not have been studying. They will not have been studying.

**Contractions:**

I shall/ We shall	I'll/ we'll
He will/ she will/ it will	He'll/she'll/it'll
You will/ they will	you'll/they'll
Has not	Hasn't
Have not	Haven't

**Future Perfect indicates that an action will still be in progress at a certain time in the future.**

e.g. By the 1<sup>st</sup> of August I shall have been working here for 10 years.

He will have been working in the garden for an hour before you came to help him.