



**Mr Casey** Have you **been working** in here **since** breakfast?

**Ryan** Yes, we've **been making** a model aeroplane.

**Tommy** And we've **been trying** to put the wheels on **for** an hour!

### The present perfect continuous: affirmative and negative



We use the present perfect continuous to talk about something that started in the past and which is still happening now.

We also use the present perfect continuous to talk about something that started in the past and finished recently.

We form the present perfect continuous with **have/has (not) + been + -ing** form.

*I've been looking for my trainers everywhere.  
You haven't been listening.*

We use **for** and **since** with the present perfect continuous.

*Andy has been playing the guitar **for** an hour and a half.*

*Andy has been playing the guitar **since** two o'clock.*

We also use time expressions with the present perfect continuous.

***all morning, all day, all afternoon, all week***

#### 1 Tick (✓) the correct sentences.

1 I haven't been painting the fence. ☒

I haven't been painted the fence. ☐

3 It been raining for a long time. ☐

It's been raining for a long time. ☐

5 You not been taking your medicine. ☐

You haven't been taking your medicine. ☐

7 The snow has falling for two hours. ☐

The snow has been falling for two hours. ☐

2 We've been carrying heavy shopping. ☐

We've be carrying heavy shopping. ☐

4 The team has be playing all afternoon. ☐

The team has been playing all afternoon. ☐

6 They've been watching TV since two o'clock. ☐

They've been watch TV since two o'clock. ☐

8 Maddy haven't been practising the guitar. ☐

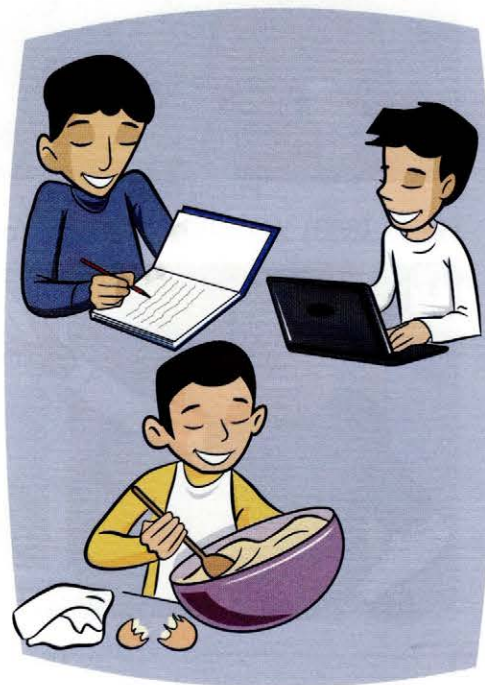
Maddy hasn't been practising the guitar. ☐

2 Look at the table. Complete the sentences.

	do homework	tidy his room	make cakes	send emails
Jasper	<sup>1</sup> ✓	<sup>2</sup> ✗	<sup>3</sup> ✗	<sup>4</sup> ✗
Eric	<sup>5</sup> ✓	<sup>6</sup> ✓	<sup>7</sup> ✓	<sup>8</sup> ✓
Seb	<sup>9</sup> ✗	<sup>10</sup> ✓	<sup>11</sup> ✗	<sup>12</sup> ✓

This week ...

- 1 Jasper and Eric have been doing homework.
- 2 Jasper \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 Jasper and Seb \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Jasper \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 Eric \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Eric \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Eric \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Eric and Seb \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 Seb \_\_\_\_\_
- 10 Seb \_\_\_\_\_
- 11 Seb \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 Seb and Eric \_\_\_\_\_



3 Write sentences. Use the present perfect continuous.

- 1 I / paint / the kitchen I've been painting the kitchen.
- 2 George and Ethan / not play / football \_\_\_\_\_
- 3 She / not listen \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 Mr Green / tell / us / some interesting stories \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 My dad / work / in the garden all morning \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 Suzy / not study / for her exams \_\_\_\_\_
- 7 Jack and Leo / not do / very much recently \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 You / wait / for the letter all week \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 I / plan / my party \_\_\_\_\_

4 Complete the sentences. Use the present perfect continuous and a verb from the box.

talk make clean ~~wait~~ eat paint shop watch



He 's been waiting for an hour.



They \_\_\_\_\_ the fence.



I \_\_\_\_\_ the window.



Leo \_\_\_\_\_ the cake.



She \_\_\_\_\_.



They \_\_\_\_\_ football on TV.



He \_\_\_\_\_ a lot.



Mum \_\_\_\_\_ a cake.

**5 Match the underlined phrases in 1–8 with a–h.**

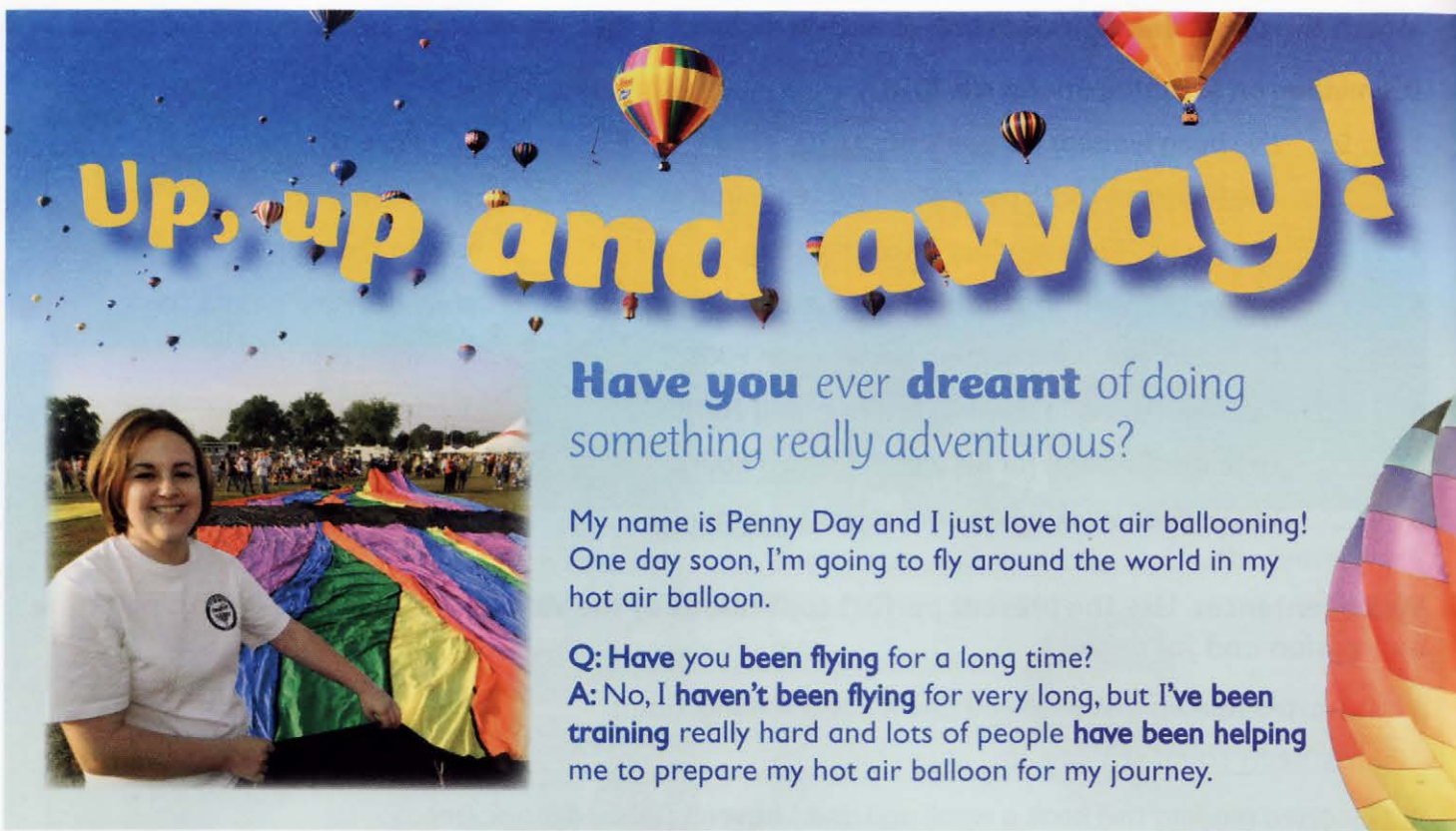
It's midday on Saturday 6th March 2010.

- 1 b I've been waiting for you since 11.30.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Zoe has been chatting to Mum for ten minutes.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Maddy has been reading since Thursday.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ You've been writing that letter since breakfast.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_ Our team has been getting better since 2008.
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_ I've been living in Townsville since May 2009.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ He's been looking for his watch for two hours.
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_ We've been working on our project for a month.

- a since 10 a.m.
- b for half an hour
- c for ten months
- d since nine o'clock this morning
- e since February
- f for two days
- g since 11.50 a.m.
- h for two years

**6 Write sentences. Use the present perfect continuous of the verb in brackets, the underlined time expression and **for** or **since**.**

- 1 It started raining last weekend and it's still raining. (rain)  
It's been raining since last weekend.
- 2 I started reading this book a week ago and I haven't finished it yet. (read)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 We started having dinner at 8 o'clock and we're still eating. (have dinner)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 My brother went to live in America in January and he's still there. (live)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 I started doing my homework three hours ago and I'm still doing it. (do)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 She started waiting two hours ago and she's still waiting. (wait)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 My dad started his job in the bank in 2007 and he still works there. (work)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 We first started taking the bus to school three years ago and we're still taking it. (take)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 They started practising the guitar five years ago and they're still practising. (practise)  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 I started playing the piano when I was four and I'm still playing it. (play)  
\_\_\_\_\_



# Up, up and away!

**Have you** ever **dreamt** of doing something really adventurous?

My name is Penny Day and I just love hot air ballooning! One day soon, I'm going to fly around the world in my hot air balloon.

**Q:** Have you **been flying** for a long time?  
**A:** No, I **haven't been flying** for very long, but I've **been training** really hard and lots of people **have been helping** me to prepare my hot air balloon for my journey.

## The present perfect continuous: questions



We use the present perfect continuous to describe an activity that started in the past and ended recently.

*It's **been raining** all morning.* (It was raining but it isn't raining now.)

We form present perfect continuous questions with **have/has** + subject + **been** + -ing form.

***Have you been waiting** for a long time? **Yes, I have.** **No, I haven't.***

We put question words before **have/has**.

***What have you been eating?***

We don't use **ever** with the present perfect continuous.

## 7 Match 1–8 with a–h.

- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1 <u>  b  </u> Have you been waiting for me?                     | a Yes, they have.                |
| 2 <u>      </u> Has it been raining?                             | b Yes, I have.                   |
| 3 <u>      </u> What have you been doing?                        | c Her cousin.                    |
| 4 <u>      </u> Where has she been climbing rocks?               | d I want to improve my French.   |
| 5 <u>      </u> Have they been playing chess all afternoon?      | e No, he hasn't.                 |
| 6 <u>      </u> Why have you been watching this TV programme?    | f We've been painting the house. |
| 7 <u>      </u> Has Tony been doing this course for a long time? | g No, it hasn't.                 |
| 8 <u>      </u> Who has she been writing to?                     | h At the activity centre.        |

8 Write questions and short answers. Use the present perfect continuous. Add **for** if necessary.

1 you both / listen / to me ✓

Have you both been listening to me? Yes, we have.

2 it / rain / all day ✗

3 we / talk / two hours ✓

4 you / try / to phone me / all evening ✗

5 the boys / work / in the garage / all morning ✓

6 Penny / learn / the guitar / two years ✓

7 we / play / computer games / two hours ✓

8 we / swim / this week ✗

9 they / look for / the cat / since breakfast ✓

10 she / draw / that picture / since Saturday ✓

Complete the conversation. Use the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

Molly You look really tired. What <sup>1</sup> have you been doing (do) all day?

Mum I <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) the house.

Molly <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you find) a bracelet this afternoon?

Mum No, I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (clean) all the rooms but

I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) it.

How long <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you look) for it?

Molly Well I <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (not see) it since last week.

Mum Jackie <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (tidy up) a lot today. <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you ask) her yet?

Molly No, I'll ask her now. Thanks, Mum.

