

GRAMMAR

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS / PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS



Read the text messages and the advert. Then answer the questions.

A Identify the tenses in bold. Which verbs in bold refer to an action that ... ?

- a started in the past and is continuing at the present moment
- b continued for some time up to another action in the past

B Decide if the following sentence is true or false.

The Perfect Continuous tenses emphasise the duration of an action.

Chinese Lantern Workshop
The Chinese **have been making** paper lanterns for thousands of years. Now you can make your own. Sign up!



Grammar Basics Rules and Basic Practice, page 99

1 Complete the sentences with the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Perfect Continuous or Past Perfect Continuous.

- 1 Sean knew Indian culture well, since he ... (live) in Mumbai for years.
- 2 Our organisation ... (help) immigrants since 1990.
- 3 I ... (not learn) Flamenco for very long, so I can't dance well.
- 4 A lot of young people ... (explore) their roots lately.
- 5 We ... (plan) to go to the carnival, but our flight was cancelled.
- 6 When I got to Moscow, I realised that I ... (not practise) my Russian enough.

Remember! The Past Perfect Simple refers to an action that took place before another action or event in the past.

2 Sharon has just been to a Moroccan Henna ceremony, which is held before a wedding. Her mum is asking her about it. Complete the dialogue with the verbs in brackets. Use the Past Perfect Simple or Past Perfect Continuous.

- Mum:** What was the Henna ceremony like?
- Sharon:** Great! The music was amazing, and after we ¹ ... (dance) for an hour, our hosts gave us beautiful Moroccan clothes to put on.
- Mum:** Sounds fun!
- Sharon:** It was. Then they put henna paint on the bride's hands, and when they ² ... (finish), they did the same to all the guests.
- Mum:** Lovely! And did you like the people?
- Sharon:** Yes. By the time I left, I felt like I ³ ... (know) some of her relatives all my life. After all, we ⁴ ... (chat) for hours!

Remember! The Present Perfect Simple refers to an action that took place at an unspecified time in the past and is often relevant to the present.

3 Sharon is talking to her mum a few days after the Henna ceremony. Complete the dialogue with the verbs in brackets. Use the Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous.

- Sharon:** I ¹ ... (wash) my hands all day, but the henna won't come off!
- Mum:** Maybe it's good that the henna ² ... (not come off). It's a symbol of good luck.
- Sharon:** But it'll make a bad impression at the job interview today. I ³ ... (try) to get an interview for weeks.
- Mum:** You'll be fine. Just ask them if they ⁴ ... (ever / be) to a Moroccan Henna ceremony!



GRAMMAR IN CONTEXT

4 Complete the blog entries with the verbs in brackets. Use the Perfect Simple or Perfect Continuous tenses. Then listen and check your answers.

The Wrong Present!

A Lauren: Yesterday, I finally found what I wanted after I ¹ ... (walk) around the market all morning – a beautiful leather bag to give my host in India. I'm leaving tomorrow, so I ² ... (pack) it in my suitcase. I hope she likes it!



2/6 | Comment | Like | E-mail

B Greg: I ¹ ... (stay) with my cousin in Germany for the past three days. Yesterday, some married friends of hers invited me to dinner. I could see that they ² ... (cook) all afternoon, and the food was delicious. But they didn't seem to like the red roses I ³ ... (buy) them.



8/6 | Comment | Like | E-mail

C Beth: A new classmate of mine ¹ ... (just / move) here from China, and she invited me to her home. I took a set of four teacups as a gift, but my friend's mum looked upset and put them in another room as soon as I ² ... (give) them to her. Ever since then, I ³ ... (wonder) what I did wrong.



11/6 | Comment | Like | E-mail

5 Match each belief below to one of the countries mentioned in Exercise 4. What mistake did each visitor make?

- Giving a woman red roses means you want to date her.
- The number four means death in our language and is considered unlucky.
- Cows are sacred in our culture.



YOUR OUTLOOK
CRITICAL THINKING

When visiting people from another country, what gift would you take from your country?

TECHNO TASK



Find more examples of gifts that are considered inappropriate in various cultures. Then design an online poster using your examples. Include an explanation of why each gift is considered inappropriate.

6 Write a suitable question to follow each statement using the words in brackets. Use the Perfect Simple or Perfect Continuous tenses.

- My boyfriend is from Brazil. (how long / you / know / him / ?)
- I haven't seen Rob since this morning. (what / he / do / all day / ?)
- We arrived late last night. (How long / you / drive / ?)
- Jan sold all her bracelets at the bazaar. (how many / she / make / ?)
- I was disappointed when Martin showed up. (who / you / wait for / ?)

7 Complete the sentences using the words in brackets. Do not change the original meaning.

- After an hour's search, he found the museum. (been)
He
- He spent five years among the native tribes. Then he wrote a book. (had)
After he
- Mia was tired after weeks of organising the carnival. (because)
Mia was tired
- This will be my first Thanksgiving dinner. (never)
I
- We began making these Chinese lanterns hours ago. (for)
We
- When did you start to play the sitar? (have)
How long ... ?

GRAMMAR IN USE

8 Choose a situation from each group below. Tell your partner what you have / had been doing to have caused the situation. Use the Perfect Continuous tenses.

- My clothes are dirty.
- I was feeling impatient.
- I'm quite fit.
- I was very tired.
- I think I'll do well in the exam.
- I paid for the trip myself.

My clothes are dirty because I've been painting my room.

I was very tired. I'd been cleaning all morning.

