






# Present Perfect Continuous Keywords

There are lots of keywords that can be used in the present perfect continuous tense. Let's take a look!



Affirmative	
Negative	
Questions	

**How long** is used in questions to ask about the length of an activity.

*How long have you been studying English?*



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**Recently** talks about a time very close to the present. It can be at the beginning or end of the phrase.

*Recently, she's been watching a new TV series.*



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**Lately** is a synonym for recently. It can be at the beginning or end of the phrase.

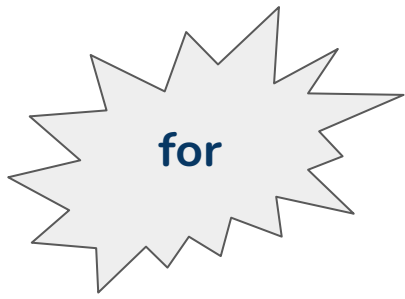
*Lately, she's been watching a new TV series.*



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**Since** refers to a specific past time. It can be at the beginning or end of the phrase.

*Since this morning, we've been reading.*



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**For** refers to a period of time/ a duration. It can be at the beginning or end of the phrase.

*For 10 years, we've been living together.*

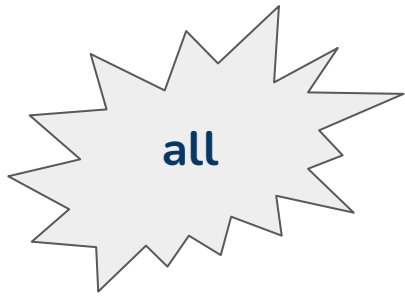


Affirmative	✓
Negative	✗
Questions	✓

**Only** is used to focus on the shortness of duration. It goes in between “have” and “been”.

*She's only been speaking French for a few years.*





Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**All** is used to focus on the length of duration. It must be followed by a time period.

*All day, they've been staring at me.*



Affirmative	✓
Negative	✓
Questions	✓

**The whole** is a synonym for “all”. It must be followed by a time period.

*The whole day he's been waiting for you.*