



Present Continuous v Present Perfect Continuous Use



Use

The present continuous is used to **talk about present time events** whilst the present perfect continuous tense is used to talk about **long past and present events.**

Use

The present continuous tense can be represented like this on a timeline.



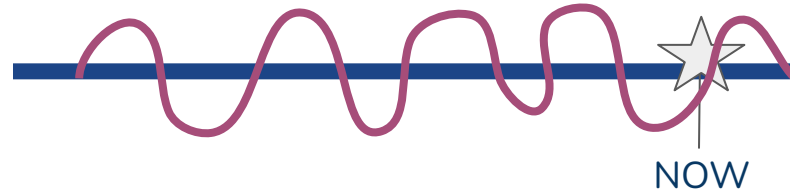
Use

The present continuous tense has five uses.

Use	Example Sentences
Right Now	I am teaching you. You are reviewing the present continuous tense.
Process	I'm studying to become a teacher. I am learning English.
Before and After	At 7am I'm normally having a shower. I'm usually watching TV when my husband arrives home.
Future Events	My mum is visiting me on Sunday. We're having a party next weekend.
Change in State	The children are growing up so quickly. People are using emails instead of writing letters.

Use

The present perfect continuous tense can be represented like this on a timeline.



Use

The present perfect continuous has three main uses.

Present Perfect Continuous Use	Example Sentences
Unfinished duration	<i>I've been learning English for 10 years</i>
Past impacts present	<i>It's been raining all morning and it's flooded my garden</i>
Temporary situation	<i>I've been watching the news a lot recently</i>

Use

Consider these two examples, what is the difference in meaning?

Present Continuous	Present Perfect Continuous
I'm studying to become a doctor	I've been studying to become a doctor

Use

Present Continuous

I'm studying to become a doctor

Present Perfect Continuous

I've been studying to become a doctor

We assume the event is happening right now and the focus is on the present process.



Use

Present Continuous	Present Perfect Continuous
I'm studying to become a doctor	I've been studying to become a doctor

We focus on the fact that the event has not yet finished and will continue into the future with the present perfect continuous tense.

