

VERY SHORT STORIES WITH

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

The Fallen Politician

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)		NEGATIVE FORM (-)	
FULL FORM	SHORT FORM	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I, You, We, You, They	I, You, We, You, They	I, You, We, You, They	I, You, We, You, They
have been screaming	've been screaming	have not been screaming	haven't been screaming
He, She, It	He, She, It	He, She, It	He, She, It
has been screaming	's been screaming	has not been screaming	hasn't been screaming

INTERROGATIVE FORM (?)

YES/NO QUESTIONS

Have } I
 } you
Has } he
 } she been
 } it screaming?

Have } we
 } you
 } they

WH-QUESTIONS

What **have** I **been** learning?
How long **have** you **been** singing?
Where **has** he **been** hiding?
Who **has** been talking?
How **have** we **been** doing?
Why **have** they **been** working with their friends?

EXAMPLES OF OTHER VERBS

Teach <i>Teaching</i>	Sing <i>Singing</i>	Take <i>Taking</i>	Pity <i>Pitying</i>
Call <i>Calling</i>	Cook <i>Cooking</i>	Drive <i>Driving</i>	Party <i>Partying</i>
Say <i>Saying</i>	Draw <i>Drawing</i>	Bake <i>Baking</i>	Part <i>Parting</i>
Paint <i>Painting</i>	Jump <i>Jumping!</i>	Type <i>Typing</i>	Ask <i>Asking</i>
Fit <i>Fitting</i>	Drip <i>Dripping!</i>	Lie <i>Lying</i>	Learn <i>Learning</i>
Carry <i>Carrying</i>	Cry <i>Crying</i>	Rule <i>Ruling</i>	Fail <i>Failing</i>

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Our Member of Parliament has disappeared. We have been looking for him day and night, searching frantically in places where he is likely to be found. He is nowhere to be seen. Even his wife does not know where he is. He just vamoosed like that, vanished like thin air. We are not surprised as a matter of fact. He has been feeding us with fat lies and the time of reckoning has come. We all believe so.

Since the day we elected him, he has been taking us for a ride. He thought that we were foolish for electing him. He has been taking our respect and loyalty for granted. He has never fulfilled any of his grand promises. Naturally, we got fed up with him. At first, we protested against him verbally. He refused to hear us. We took to the streets and he had the riot police come after us.

Time and money were against us, so we left him alone. He continued abusing us until he disappeared for good.

His disappearance actually dates back to last week. Rumour has it that he is abroad. He has gone into hiding. He run away with a concubine. We have been hearing so many stories about him that some of them are just hard to believe. A vendor at the market said that she saw him with a woman in his Mercedes Benz. She apparently looked foreign, and certainly she was not his wife.

The majority of the stories are negative, of course. Our once honourable MP is not here to deny those rumours. He has never been here anyway; he has always lived in town. He has always been running away from his duties. Now, he has run away for good. He has been earning his salary without working for it. Now, we want answers but he is not here to answer our questions.

We wish we could turn back the hands of time. You know, during his campaign there was an event that could have stopped him for good. He was addressing one of his last rallies and one of the supporters of his main rival pushed our future MP off the podium. The poor bloke was immediately rushed to the hospital. We all feared for his life. Luckily enough he did not sustain any serious injuries. He just got away with a broken arm and leg.

Today, marks the eighth day since he left us. We have been living like lost and orphaned children. We strongly feel his absence and hope that the void he left behind will soon be filled by somebody else. Deep down, we all know that a similar ruthless and shameless individual will replace him. Birds of the same feather flock together, we have seen that with our own eyes. Perhaps, it is time we became adults and stopped depending on these thieves. We have been suffering for so long.

So Long

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)

NEGATIVE FORM (-)

EXAMPLES (Eg.)

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (+)		NEGATIVE FORM (-)	
FULL FORM	SHORT FORM	FULL FORM	SHORT FORM
I have been drinking	I've been drinking	I have not been drinking	I haven't been drinking
You have been drinking	You've been drinking	You have not been drinking	You haven't been drinking
He	He } 's been drinking	He } has not been drinking	He } hasn't been drinking
She			
It			
We	We } have been drinking	We } have not been drinking	We } haven't been drinking
You			
They			

- *I have been planning to see you.*
- *She hasn't been sleeping for days.*
- *He's been looking for a house.*
- *What have they been singing?*
- *She's been talking to me since you left yesterday.*
- *I haven't been eating or drinking.*
- *Has she been doing her homework?*

INTERROGATIVE FORM

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Have I been drinking ...? | Have we been drinking...? |
| Have you been drinking ...? | Have you been drinking...? |
| Has he/she/it been drinking? | Have they been drinking...? |

She takes a small suitcase and fills it up with basic necessities: a few clothes, her favourite books, important documents, some souvenirs. She has been planning this day for so long that she does all the actions in automated mode.

Once she steps out of the house, she does not look behind. She does not even think about it. It does not take long to erase the bad memories out of her mind that she can hardly believe it herself. The chains are falling and she never thought that they would during her lifetime. She has been dreaming about this state for so long that she can hardly breathe.

She boards the first bus that comes. There are a lot of people on board. Some of them smile at her as if they know what she has just been doing. Most of them are indifferent but it does not matter to her. Freedom at last, she mutters but she is sure that everybody has heard her. She is sitting to a young woman with braids that are so long that they almost touch her knees. The latter

says 'hi' and she returns the greetings. She has been longing for this moment for so long that her 'HELLO' is resounding like the loudest of trumpets. **FREEDOM!**

She sits back and enjoys the ride.

An imaginary goodbye to her detestable past finally escapes her lips.

So long.

Heroes

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
have been looking		has been looking			have been looking		
've been looking		's been looking			've been looking		

NEGATIVE FORM (FULL AND SHORT FORMS)							
I	You	He	She	It	We	You	They
have not been looking		has not been looking			have not been looking		
haven't been looking		hasn't been looking			haven't been		

INTERROGATIVE FORM							
Have		Has			Have		
I	you	he	she	it	we	you	they
been looking?							

They wake up at four o'clock every morning. Their wives are sleeping and their children too. They have been doing this since they became husbands and fathers. They will be doing this until they can longer do so.

They carry heavy loads of charcoal on their backs. They head to the market to sell it to other heroes — women and men who strive to do the best for their families, come rain or sunshine. They have been waking up so early for time immemorial that it has become inconsequential for them.

The charcoal they buy will be used to cook food for small heroes — children who walk miles to go to school so that they can dream of a better future, even though they know that there is none for most of them. Their parents and teachers have been lying to them that they will all have jobs after leaving school — they just have to work harder and heroically.

A few of pupils will become doctors or lawyers. Some of them will work in government or private offices, eking out a pitiful existence. The majority of them will be jobless and will become farmers like their heroic fathers, grandfathers or great-grandfathers before them. A tiny few will resort to crime and

will be dealt with heroes in uniform. The pupils have been witnessing this situation for so long that they somehow know what the future holds for them even though the adults around them say otherwise.

In any case, these school children will become men and women, heroes and heroines. They will participate in the same upstream swimming that is life. They have been learning this life lesson as soon as they could understand the world around them.

Being a hero is not a choice — heroism is a quality that you inherit when you are left with no other choices.

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS TENSE

AFFIRMATIVE FORM	NEGATIVE FORM	INTERROGATIVE FORM	EXAMPLES
<p>FULL FORM I, You, He, She, It, We, You, They have been running</p> <p>SHORT FORM I, You, We, You, They 've been running</p> <p>He, She, It has been running 's been running</p>	<p>FULL FORM I, You, We, You, They have not been running</p> <p>SHORT FORM I, You, We, You, They haven't been running</p> <p>He, She, It has not been running hasn't been running</p>	<p>YES/NO QUESTIONS Have I, you, we, you, they been running?</p> <p>WH-QUESTIONS What have I, you, we, you, they been doing?</p> <p>Has he/she/it been running? What has he/she/it been doing?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I have been cleaning the house all day long.</i> <i>She hasn't been sleeping for days.</i> <i>He's been looking for a wife.</i> <i>What have they been writing?</i> <i>She's been watching films since you left.</i> <i>I haven't been reading a lot lately.</i> <i>Has she been playing?</i>



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