



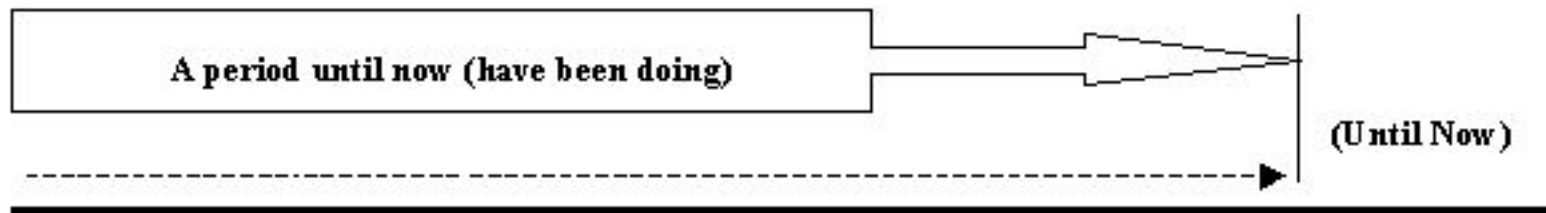
# Perfect Continuous tenses in the active voice

By Svitlana Grynenko

# Present Perfect Continuous



Subject + have been + V<sub>ing</sub>



The present perfect continuous tense is often used (with for or since) to describe how long something has been happening up to now.

**For example:-** "How long *have you been studying* English?" -*I've been studying* English **for** four years."

-How long *have you been living* in Germany? -*I've been living* here **since** 1998.

The present perfect continuous is also used to refer to an event that may or may not be finished when its effect can be seen now.

***For example:-*** Look! *It's been* snowing.

You should also use the present perfect continuous when talking about how long you have been doing your current job or working on unfinished projects:

***For example:-*** I *have been* working at BT ***for*** three years.

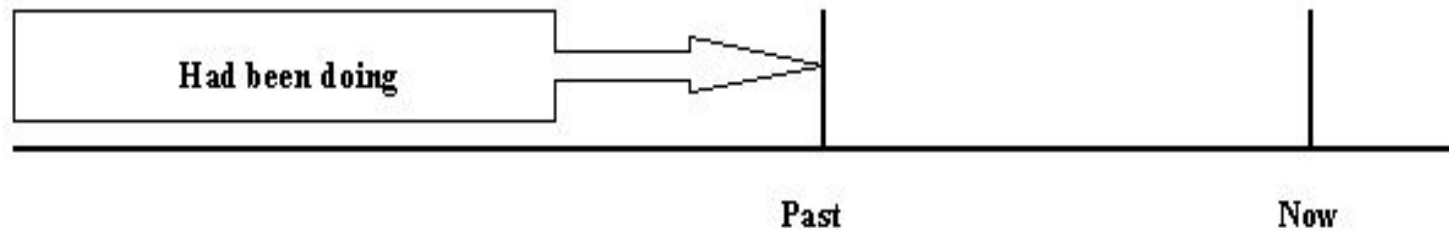
***We have been*** exporting to China ***since*** 1999.




# Past Perfect Continuous



Subject + had been + V<sub>ing</sub>





The past perfect continuous tense is used to talk about longer situations that continued up to the moment in the past we are talking about.

**For example:** "By the time I *left* England we *had been living* in Bristol for five years."

"Her back *was sore* because she *had been sitting* at the computer all day."

It is also used to say how long something went on for, up to a time in the past.

**For example:** We apologised because we *had kept them* waiting for 3 hours.

We apologized because we *had kept them* waiting since lunchtime.

# Future Perfect Continuous

Subject + will have been + V<sub>ing</sub>

We use the future perfect continuous tense to talk about a long action before some point in the future. Look at these examples:

- I will have been working here for ten years next week.
- He will be tired when he arrives. He will have been traveling for 24 hours.

