

# 11

## Life's what you make it!

Present Perfect Continuous • Tense review  
Birth, marriage, and death • Good news, bad news

### STARTER

- 1 Ask and answer these questions with a partner.
  - How long have you been learning English?
  - When did you start?
- 2 Ask your teacher the same questions about *teaching* English.

### ANYONE CAN SING!

Present Perfect Continuous and tense review

- 1 How many students in your class think they can sing? How many think they can't? Do a survey and *prove* your answers.
- 2 Choirmaster and TV Presenter, Gareth Malone is passionate about teaching singing. Look quickly through the chart about his life. In what ways has music been part of his life?
- 3 Study the chart more closely and answer the questions.
  - 1 Where and when was Gareth born? \_\_\_\_\_ Three.
  - 2 When did he move to London? \_\_\_\_\_ For about 30 years.
  - 3 What did he study at university? \_\_\_\_\_ When he was three.
  - 4 How long did he work for the LSO? \_\_\_\_\_ Since he was three.
  - 5 How many awards has he won? \_\_\_\_\_ When he was 23.
  - 6 How long has he been married? \_\_\_\_\_ Since he was 23.
  - 7 Does he have any children? \_\_\_\_\_ In 2007.
  - 8 What is he doing now? \_\_\_\_\_ Since 2007.
- 4 Match a question about Gareth with an answer.
 

|                                              |                           |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 When did he start playing the piano?       | _____ Three.              |
| 2 How long has he been playing the piano?    | _____ For about 30 years. |
| 3 When did he start teaching singing?        | _____ When he was three.  |
| 4 How long has he been teaching singing?     | _____ Since he was three. |
| 5 When did he make his first TV programme?   | _____ When he was 23.     |
| 6 How long has he been making TV programmes? | _____ Since he was 23.    |
| 7 How many programmes has he made?           | _____ In 2007.            |
| 8 How long has he been living in London?     | _____ Since 2007.         |

**LISTEN** Listen and check. Ask and answer the questions with a partner.



**Gareth Malone –  
an extraordinary  
music teacher**





| Age          | Life event                                                                                           |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0            | Born in Bournemouth, England, 1975.                                                                  |
| 3            | Started playing the piano.                                                                           |
| 5<br>to 10   | Bournemouth Grammar School.<br>Started singing in the choir.                                         |
| 10           | Moved with family to London.                                                                         |
| 18<br>to 21  | Studied Drama at the University<br>of East Anglia.                                                   |
| 23           | Started teaching singing in schools.                                                                 |
| 26           | Started working for the London<br>Symphony Orchestra (LSO). He ran<br>their Youth Choir.             |
| 27<br>to 30  | Did a postgraduate course at the<br>Royal Academy of Music in London.                                |
| 32<br>to now | Started making programmes for<br>BBC TV. Has made three: The Choir,<br>Boys Don't Sing, Unsung Town. |
| 33           | Married Becky, an English teacher.                                                                   |
| 34           | Won two TV (BAFTA) awards for<br>The Choir. Stopped working for<br>the LSO.                          |
| 35           | Daughter Esther born.                                                                                |
| now          | Still teaching music and making<br>more radio and TV programmes.<br>Still living in London.          |

## GRAMMAR SPOT

1 Read the sentences. What tenses are used?

He **made** his first TV programme in 2007 and he still **makes** them.

He's **been making** programmes since 2007.

He's **made** three so far.

The Present Perfect Continuous expresses an activity that began in the past and still continues.

2 Complete the questions. Answer them.

**How long** \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ TV programmes?

**How many** programmes \_\_\_\_\_ he \_\_\_\_\_ so far?

3 Remember! State verbs such as *be*, *have* (possession), *know*, *love* are rarely used in continuous tenses.

I've **known** him for a long time.

►► Grammar Reference 11.1 p145

## PRACTICE

### Discussing grammar

1 Choose the correct tense.

- How long *have you been waiting* / *are you waiting* here?
- I *bought* / *have bought* a computer a few weeks ago.
- Alice *has been looking* / *has looked* for a new job for ages.
- How long *have you had* / *have you been having* your car?
- Sue *has been talking* / *has talked* on her phone for ages.
- She's *been speaking* / *has spoken* to at least six friends.

### Asking questions

2 Work with a partner. Read the sentences aloud and reply using a question with *How long ...?* Think of an answer.

How long has she been working there?

Only a couple of months.

- My sister's working in New York.
- I'm training to run the marathon.
- My boss is on holiday.
- I'm learning how to drive.
- I know Maria very well.
- I have the new iPad.

**T 11.2** Listen and compare.

### Talking about you

3 Put the verbs in the Present Perfect Simple or Continuous or the Past Simple. Then ask and answer with a partner.

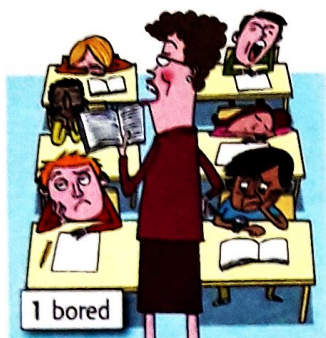
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to this school?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (use) this book?
- Which book \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (use) before this one?
- How long \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (know) your teacher?

## What have they been doing?

- 4 Work with a partner. Ask questions with *Why?* about the people in the pictures. Reply with *because* and a reason.

Why are the students bored?

Because the teacher's been talking for hours.



- 5 Complete these sentences in the Present Perfect Simple about the people in exercise 4.

- 1 They haven't understood (not understand) a word.
- 2 He \_\_\_\_\_ (sing) every night for the last three weeks.
- 3 They're happy because they \_\_\_\_\_ (win) the match.
- 4 He \_\_\_\_\_ (plant) six rows of cabbages.
- 5 She \_\_\_\_\_ (paint) two walls already.
- 6 They \_\_\_\_\_ (spend) over £200.

**T 11.3** Listen and check.

## UNIT 11

### 11.1 Present Perfect Continuous

#### Form

*has/have + been + -ing* (present participle)

#### Positive and negative

|                        |                       |               |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| I<br>You<br>We<br>They | 've (have)<br>haven't | been working. |
| He<br>She<br>It        | 's (has)<br>hasn't    |               |

#### Question

|          |      |                        |               |
|----------|------|------------------------|---------------|
| How long | have | I<br>you<br>we<br>they | been working? |
|          | has  | he<br>she<br>it        |               |

#### Short answer

*Have you been running?*

*Yes, I have./No, I haven't.*

#### Use

The Present Perfect Continuous is used:

- 1 to express an activity which began in the past and continues to the present.

*He's **been teaching** music for years.*

*It's **been raining** for days.*

- 2 to refer to an activity with a result in the present.

*I'm hot because I've **been running**.*

*I haven't got any money because I've **been shopping**.*

#### Note

- 1 Sometimes there is little or no difference in meaning between the Present Perfect Simple and Continuous.

*How long **have you worked** here?*

*How long **have you been working** here?*

- 2 Some verbs have the idea of a long time – *wait, work, learn, travel, play*.

These verbs can often be found in the Present Perfect Continuous.

*I've **been waiting** for hours.*

Some verbs don't have the idea of a long time – *find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop*. It is unusual to find these in the Present Perfect Continuous.

*I've **bought** a new dress.*

*My cat **has died**.*

*My radio's **broken**.*

- 3 Verbs that express a state – *like, love, know, have* (for possession), are not found in the Present Perfect Continuous.

*We've **known** each other for a few weeks.*

NOT *We've ~~been knowing~~ each other for a few weeks.*

- 4 If the sentence gives a number or a quantity, the Present Perfect Simple is used. The Continuous is not possible.

*I've **been writing** emails all morning. I've **written** twenty.*

NOT *I've ~~been writing~~ twenty.*