

Lecture Four
English Language - Upper intermediate

Dr. Aguilera

Unit 2

Present perfect and present continuous

Many languages have a past tense to refer to past time, and a present tense to refer to present time. English has these, too, but it also has the present perfect, which relates past actions to present.

The present perfect relates past actions to present.

Ex: I lived in Rome. (But not anymore.)

I've lived in Rome, Paris, and New York. (I know all these cities now.)

I've been living in New York for ten years. (And I'm living there now.)

Present perfect simple and continuous

These tenses have three main uses:

1. Unfinished past

The verb action began in the past and continuous to the present.

We have lived in this house for twenty years.

Sorry I'm late. Have you been waiting long?

Remember that state verbs rarely take continuous.

I've known Joan for years. ~~I've been knowing~~

2. Present result

The verb action happened in the past, usually the recent past, and the results of the action are felt now.

You 've changed. What have you done to yourself?

I've lost some weight.

I've been doing some exercise.

The simple emphasizes the completed action. The continuous emphasizes the repeated activities over a period of time.

3. Indefinite past

The verb action happened at an unspecified time in the past.

Have you ever taken karate classes?

Note: solving the exercises in the workbook from page 11 to page 14