

18th October 2024

OET Writing – Present Perfect Simple and Present Perfect Continuous

Starter

What's the difference between these two sentences?

1. Mr Khan has taken his medication.

Present Perfect Simple = has/have + past participle (3rd form)

Recent action with a present result/effect

Focus is on the completion of the action

2. Mr Khan has been taking his medication.

Present Perfect Continuous = has/have + been + verb + ing

Action started in the past and continued until the present and probably will continue in the future

Focus is on the continuation of the action

Which of these sentences is correct?

Why?

1. Ms Brown has **had** diabetes for six years. = **correct**

2. Ms Brown has been **having** diabetes for six years. = **incorrect**

Action verb = drink / eat / run / walk

Can be used in continuous form and simple form

Non-action / state verb = believe / know / understand / love / own

Cannot be used in continuous form – only in the simple form

Present Perfect Simple	Present Perfect Continuous
<p>Focus on the completion and/or result of a recent past action</p> <p>“Mr Green has exercised this morning”</p>	<p>Focus on the fact that a recent past action may have just finished recently or may still be happening now</p> <p>“Mr Green has been exercising every morning this week”</p>
<p>We can use with action and non-action verbs to talk about an action/state that started in the past and continued to the present (with ‘for’ and ‘since’)</p> <p>“Ms Demir has attended this clinic for 20 years”</p> <p>“The doctor has known Ms Demir since 2004”</p>	<p>We can only use with action verbs to talk about an action that started in the past and continued to the present (with ‘for’ and ‘since’)</p> <p>“Ms Demir has been taking this medication for six months”</p> <p>“The doctor has been knowing Ms Demir since 2004”</p>
<p>We focus on ‘how many/much’</p> <p>“The nurse has seen 10 patients today”</p> <p>“The patient has drunk five glasses of water”</p>	<p>We focus on ‘how long’</p> <p>“His family has been waiting for three hours”</p>
<p>We often use with ‘already’, ‘just’ and ‘yet’</p> <p>“The physiotherapist has already visited the patient”</p> <p>“We have just opened a new clinic in town”</p> <p>“Have you taken your medication yet?”</p>	<p>We often use with ‘recently’ and phrases such as ‘all day’ or ‘all morning’</p> <p>“We have been working all morning”</p> <p>“The staff have been doing training recently”</p>
<p>We can use with the passive</p> <p>“Many examinations have been conducted”</p>	<p>We don’t usually use with the passive</p> <p>“Many examinations have been being conducted”</p>

Practice:

Use the Present Perfect Simple or Continuous form of the verb in brackets to fill the gap

1. Dr Adams **has seen** (see) five patients so far today.
2. I **have been taking** (take) this medication for two weeks, but my symptoms haven't improved.
3. The nurses **have been monitoring** (monitor) the patient's vital signs since this morning.
4. We **have not received** (not receive) the test results from the lab yet.
5. How long **have you been experiencing** (experience) chest pain?
6. Several clinical trials **have been conducted** (conduct) on this new treatment.
7. I **have felt/have been feeling** (feel) a bit better since I started physiotherapy.
8. The surgeon **has performed** (perform) three operations this week.
9. They **have been discussing** (discuss) treatment options with the patient for the past hour.
10. The patient **has been waiting** (wait) in the emergency room for over an hour.
11. I **have completed** (complete) the rehabilitation program, but I still feel weak.
12. The doctor **has known** (know) the family for three years.

Extension:

Mrs Margaret Helen Martin is being discharged today.
This information is regarding her hospitalisation:

Nursing management and progress during hospital stay:

Routine post-operative recovery
Tolerating light diet and fluids
Bruising at catheter insertion site, no signs of infection/bleeding noted post-procedure
Pt anxious about return home, not sure whether she will cope

What tense would you use to talk about Mr Martin's progress?
Why?