

1 I've been thinking

Continuous and perfect forms

We use continuous forms:

- to talk about temporary events over a period of time. I'm **staying** with friends at the moment.
- to focus on the action/situation and to emphasise 'how long'. He **was cooking** dinner all afternoon.
- to show a situation is changing/developing. He **was getting** stronger every day.

① State verbs (*like, seem, think, have*) are not normally used in the continuous. When these verbs are used in the continuous they suggest a temporary activity: I'm **thinking** of changing jobs. (*considering*)

We use perfect forms to link an earlier action with a later situation:

- to talk about an action which happened before another action. When I arrived, she **had already eaten**.
- for actions/states that began earlier and continue to a later time. I've **lived** here for years/**since** 1998 and I'm still here. (*for* = period of time; *since* = a specific time)
- to talk about the result of an earlier action. Look! I've **found** the bracelet that I lost.

① With perfect forms, the exact time that something happened is not important.

① We often combine the continuous and perfect. He **had been** reading.

A Underline the correct answer.

www.oldfriendsreunited.com

OLD FRIENDS REUNITED

- 1 What do you do/have you been doing since we last met?
- 2 I **have/'m having** two lovely children. They're called Pierre and Monique.
- 3 Our annual dinners **get/are getting** better. This year a lot of old friends came.
- 4 I **wasn't seeing/hadn't seen** Rolf for years and I was looking forward to meeting him again.
- 5 I'm **working/'ve been working** abroad for the last three years.
- 6 I **try/'m trying** to get in touch with Sophie at the moment, but I haven't got her address.
- 7 **Are you knowing/Do you know** Lena's phone number?
- 8 Pierre's in hospital. He **has/'s having** an operation on his knee.

B Correct the mistakes in these sentences.

- 'How are you? I don't see you for ages.' *haven't seen*
 'No, we're not meeting since 2002.'
- 'Do you know Germany well?'
 'Yes, I'm going there many times in recent years.'
- By the time I got to the party, all my friends were leaving. I didn't know anyone.

- 'I just find Paul's email address. Do you want it?'
- 'How long do you know Julia?'
- 'We're friends for years. We see each other at least once a week.'
- I called Maria last week. Before that I wasn't speaking to her for ages.

C Write the verbs in the continuous, the perfect or the perfect continuous in this magazine article.

MY LIFE AS A MODEL

When I started at school, the other children were always laughing (1 always/laugh) at me because I was shorter than they were and not very pretty. By the time I left school, however, I (2 grow) a lot and was the tallest girl in my class. A few years later, I (3 study) law at university when a friend suggested that I took up modelling. I was amazed because, before then, I (4 never/think) of myself as very attractive, but she disagreed. Like many of my university friends, she (5 have to) get a part-time job and (6 work) in the evenings as a part-time model for one of the big agencies. When I left university, I decided to join her. Since then, I (7 work) as a fashion model and I love it. I (8 travel) all over the world for the big fashion magazines – 48 countries in all! – and I (9 have) many wonderful experiences. Recently, though, I (10 read) the autobiography of a famous model. She writes about the difficulties faced by older models and now I (11 get) more anxious about the future. Should I change my career? I (12 always/like) the idea of acting and at the moment I (13 think) of having lessons. Sometimes I regret that I (14 never/take) the time to practise law!



2 I had my car repaired

needs to be done/needs doing; have/get something done

	<i>need</i>	+ <i>-ing</i> /passive infinitive
The windows	need	cleaning. to be cleaned.
<i>have/get</i>	+ object	+ past participle
Have you had	your hair	cut? (Did someone else cut your hair?)
I want to get	the house	redecorated. (<i>get</i> is usually more informal)

① We can also use *have/get something done* when someone does something to us we don't want. I **had my passport stolen.** (*had* = not my fault) I **got my coat caught** in the door of the car.

A Renata has bought a new house. Use **need** or **have/get something done** and complete her conversation with the agent.



- 'The central heating needs repairing/ to be repaired.'
'OK, I'll have it repaired.'
- 'The front door ?'
'Don't worry. I'll get it painted.'
- 'The kitchen needs cleaning.'
'Really? OK, I'll ?'
- 'The garden ?'
'Right. I'll get it tidied.'
- 'Some lights need to be fitted.'
'Do they? OK, I'll ?'
- 'The bedrooms ?'
'OK, I'll have them decorated.'

B Which of these sentences are true for you? Underline the true sentences.

- I clean my car/I have my car cleaned when it's dirty.
- I paint my room/I get my room painted when it needs decorating.
- I mend the TV/I get the TV mended when it's broken.
- I cut my hair/I have my hair cut when it's long.
- On one occasion I stole some money/I had some money stolen.