

- see
*I **see** what you mean.* (= understand – stative verb)
*I'm **seeing** the director tomorrow.* (= meet – dynamic verb)
- be
*Tom **is** a very critical person.* (= permanent quality – stative verb)
*Tom **is being** very critical of everything today.* (= temporary behaviour – dynamic verb)

We sometimes use stative verbs in continuous forms while talking about things/events which last for a short period of time:

- I like my job a lot.* (= permanent state – simple form)
- How are you liking your new job?* (= short time – continuous form)
- I love rock concerts.* (= permanent state – simple form)
- I'm loving this concert.* (= short time – continuous form)

Some stative verbs can be used in continuous forms only in certain tenses. For example, *need*, *want* and *mean* can have future or present perfect progressive uses:

- Will you be needing your laptop tomorrow?*
- He's been wanting a new phone for a while now.*
- I've been meaning to tell you about it since Monday.*

Perfect tense forms

The perfect forms are used to link one time to another time:

Past → Present

Past ← Past

Present → Future

Present Perfect, Past Perfect and Future Perfect

The Present Perfect is used to link an action in the past to the present time, or to refer to the present result of that past action:

- We haven't finished the book yet.* (We started it in the past and we're still reading it.)
- I've lost my keys* (past action), *so I can't get into the house.* (present result)

The Past Perfect is used to link an action in the past to a previous action in the past:

- They had left by the time we arrived.* (We arrived. Previous to our arrival, they left.)

The Future Perfect is used to link a present situation to an action that will be completed in the future:

- Let's start now and we'll have finished by next Tuesday.*

Perfect simple forms also indicate:

- that an action is complete:
Present Perfect: *They have already said that.*
Past Perfect: *They had already told them.*
Future Perfect: *They will have done that before we arrive.*
- that an action is repeated:
Present Perfect: *I have told you not to do that at least five times!*
Past Perfect: *It was only after we had phoned several times that someone answered.*
Future Perfect: *My granddad will have told Mum and Dad the story at least five times by the time we get there.*

- that a situation may be regarded as permanent:
Present Perfect: *Fran and Doug have lived in a small town since they married.*
Past Perfect: *People had become so dependent on computer friendships that they found it difficult to relate to each other on a face-to-face basis.*
Future Perfect: *By the end of next year, we will have lived here for ten years.*

Perfect continuous forms

Present Perfect Continuous, Past Perfect Continuous and Future Perfect Continuous

Perfect continuous forms link one time to another in the same way as the simple forms.

We choose to use a perfect continuous form if we want to emphasise that a situation/action is temporary/in progress at a particular period of time.

Present Perfect Continuous: *They've been playing video games all day today! Tell them to stop.*

Past Perfect Continuous: *I had been waiting for two hours before he finally arrived!*

Future Perfect Continuous: *They'll have been sitting there and chatting all morning by the time I get there.*

Note:

Since the emphasis is on the duration of the activity we do not specify how many times an action happened:

I've been trying to write my blog all day.

NOT *I've been trying to write my blog three times.*

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Use extra words where necessary.

- As children (grow up), they tend to lose their dependence on their parents.
- Jack (always/fall out) with us over petty things. It's so annoying!
- Supporting friends while they (have) a run of bad luck is part of what friendship is.
- Before we got our pet dog, we (not realise) what a strong bond you can form with an animal.
- While we (help) Rose pack, her grandmother was collecting some food for her to take with her.
- At that time, people (live) in small communities and everyone knew each other.
- Don't worry, by the time you get back, we (solve) the problem.
- Mick's irreverent attitude meant he (laugh) at people in authority for years.
- I grew up with the kids in the neighbourhood; by the time I leave for university next year, I (hang out) with them for nearly sixteen years!
- I'm so excited! The plane lands at 5 p.m. and all my friends (wait) at the airport to welcome me back home!
- When I reached the ship's rails, the dolphins (already/disappear). I was so disappointed!