

## 4- Present perfect continuous

**Objectives:** By the end of the lesson, students will be able to use correctly the present continuous.

4-1 To better understand the present perfect continuous, study the following situation:

Is the teacher explaining the lecture? No, but the board is full of writing. The teacher **has been explaining** the lecture.

**Have/has been -ing** is the present perfect continuous:

I/we/they/you <b>have</b> = (I've etc)		Studying
He/she/it <b>has</b> = (he's etc)	<b>Been</b>	playing sitting etc

4-2 According to Yule (2006, p.18), the present perfect continuous tense is used to refer to an activity that has stopped either very recently or just stopped. It is associated with the present moment (now).

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (= you're out of breath now)
- Why is your suit so dirty? What **have you been doing?**

4-3 The present perfect continuous tense is used particularly with the expressions "**how long**," "**for**," and "**since**." This is to indicate that the action is either ongoing or has just ended.

- **How long have you been learning** French? (= you're still learning French).
- Tim is still watching TV. **He's been watching TV all day.**
- Where have you been? **I've been looking for you for the last half hour.** (Hewings, 1999, p.14)

4-3 The present perfect continuous can be used for actions repeated over a period of time:

- Susan is a very good footballer. **She's been playing since she was seven.**
- Every evening they meet in the same library. **They've been going there for months.** (Murphy, 2012, p. 18).

**Exercise:01:** Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous

(I have been -ing).

**a-** Maria **has been Learning** (Maria / learn) English for two years.

**b-** Hello, Tom. ....(I/ look) for you. Where have you been?

**c-** Why ..... (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!

**d-** Linda is a teacher..... (she / teach) for ten years. (Murphy, 2012, p. 19).