

Grammar

Practice A

Complete the sentences with the present progressive or present perfect progressive of the verbs in parentheses.

A: You look busy. What have you been doing?

B: I (write) 1. *have been writing* an essay.

A: How long (work) 2. _____ you _____ on it?

B: I (work) 3. _____ on it since this morning.

At the moment, I (sit) 4. _____ in class. I (sit) 5. _____ here for 20 minutes. We (learn) 6. _____ about the present perfect progressive since the beginning of this class.

Practice B

Complete the sentences with the present perfect or the present perfect progressive of the verbs in parentheses.

- Carlos and Rosa are planning to buy a house. They (look) *have been looking* _____ for a house for a month. They (look) _____ at five houses, but they (not, find) _____ one that they like yet.
- My grandfather (paint) _____ for ten years now. He (paint) _____ more than fifty paintings.
- I (learn) _____ to drive for four months. I (take) _____ the driving test three times now and (not, pass) _____ yet.
- John (write) _____ on his computer for an hour. He (already, send) _____ five emails to his friends.
- Karen (drive) _____ for three hours now. She (drive) _____ almost 200 miles.
- I (read) _____ this book for two weeks now, but I (not, finish) _____ yet.
- Jerry (work) _____ on a math problem for half an hour, and he (not, find) _____ the answer yet.
- I (cook) _____ for hours, and I (just, burn) _____ the cake.

Practice C

Complete the sentences with the present perfect or the present perfect progressive of the verbs in parentheses.

New	Delete	Reply	Reply All	Forward	Move
-----	--------	-------	-----------	---------	------

SEND	TO:	Sarah_Perkosz@mymail.com
	FROM:	Tim_Perkosz@westcollege.edu
	SUBJECT:	Summer Vacation

Dear Sarah,

I (mean) 1. *have been meaning* _____ to write you for weeks, but you know how it is. Everything is fine here at home. I (just, finish) 2. _____ my second year at college, and I (get) 3. _____ good grades. I (decide) 4. _____ to get a job for the summer and save some money. So far, I (help) 5. _____ Mom with the shopping and the cooking.

Dad (sell) 6. _____ the old car! He (buy) 7. _____ a new one of the same make and color, of course! I (not, drive) 8. _____ it yet. Mom is busy with redecorating the house. It (be) 9. _____ a mess here. The painters (work) 10. _____ as fast as they can, and I hope they will be done soon. The house will look great by the time you come to visit.

I hope you (work) 11. _____ hard!

See you soon.

Your brother,

Tim

4

Practice D

Complete the sentences using *still* in the correct position.

1. I don't understand what you mean.

2. I've been practicing the piano a lot, but I'm not very good.

3. Old cell phones are useful.

4. She writes letters. She doesn't like technology.

5. The score is 5-0 and there are only ten minutes left in the game, but he thinks they can win.

Reading

A. Read the text.



PROBLEMS WITH THE STUDENT CENTER

I've been studying at my school for six years. We have a student center that is supposed to be a good place to meet and hang out. There's also a café where we can get coffee or tea and a snack. I've been going there since it opened

a couple of years ago. It's cheaper than a coffee shop outside the campus. Sounds good? Well, not really.

There are quite a few problems. These days, the student center is not a **convenient** or comfortable place for students to hang out. First of all, the center is only open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., when most students are in classes. Many students want to relax there before or after class, but the door is locked. Second, the snack bar does not have enough employees. The lines to get food or coffee are very long. Third, the food they have been serving recently is really bad. There isn't much choice and the sandwiches are pretty awful—just white bread and no vegetables. Fourth, the espresso and latte coffeemaker has

been broken for the last month, so if you want a hot drink, it's either regular coffee or tea. Most importantly, the center is usually a mess, with papers and garbage everywhere.

In my opinion, the school **administrators** need to make several basic improvements. They should keep the center open longer, hire more staff, improve the quality of the food as well

as provide better and healthier choices, fix the coffee machine or buy a new one, and provide more garbage and **recycling bins**. They could do all of this quite easily and quickly. Our school really must have a clean, comfortable place where students can relax and make friends, and enjoy a tasty and healthy snack.

- Glossary:**
- convenient (adj.)** easy to do, or not causing problems or difficulties (สะดวก)
 - administrator (n.)** someone whose job involves managing the work of a business, organization, or institution (ผู้บริหาร)
 - recycling bin (n.)** a large container where you put glass, paper, etc. that it can be used again (ถังขยะสำหรับขยะที่นำกลับมาใช้ได้)

B. Make a list of the problems. Then make a list of the suggestions to improve them.

Problem	Suggestion
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	