

What do you think they have been doing?

Activity Type

Grammar and Speaking Activity: asking and answering questions, sentence completion, controlled practice (group work)

Focus

Present perfect continuous

Aim

To practice the present perfect continuous by taking on a character role and asking questions to find out what other people have been doing.

Preparation

Make one copy of the character cards for each group of eight and cut as indicated.

Also, make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Upper-intermediate (B2)

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

In this present perfect continuous activity, students take on a character role and ask questions to find out what other people have been doing.

Procedure

Divide the students into groups of eight.

Give each student in the group a character card and worksheet.

Smaller groups are also possible by removing some character cards.

Students then take on the role of the person on their character card and find out what the other people in their group have been doing by asking questions and completing a chart with the information.

In order to complete the chart, students must use the present perfect continuous and ask a total of four questions.

Draw the students' attention to the words in bold on their card and elicit the four questions the students need to ask to find out the information:

1. What is your name?
2. What have you been wearing?
3. What (equipment) have you been using?
4. How long have you been using it/them?

Students then write their own information in the chart.

Next, students go around their group asking and answering the four questions and noting down the information in their chart.

Afterwards, students read the information in the chart, guess what each person has been doing and complete sentences with their answers using the present perfect continuous.

Finally, review the answers with the class.

Exercise B - Answer key (similar answers are also possible)

1. Freddie has been scuba diving.
2. Dorothy has been sweeping the floor.
3. Gary has been gardening.
4. Wendy has been camping.
5. Russell has been cooking.
6. Donna has been hanging up clothes.
7. Colin has been fishing.
8. Sally has been sewing.
9. Wendy has been doing her activity the longest.
10. Donna has been doing her activity for the least amount of time.

What do you think they have been doing?



Freddie Frogman

You've been wearing a **mask** and **flippers**.

You've been using an **oxygen tank**.

You've been using it for **20 minutes**.

Dorothy Dochores

You've been wearing **shorts** and a **T-shirt**.

You've been using a **dustpan** and a **brush**.

You've been using them for **15 minutes**.



Gary Greenfingers

You've been wearing **gloves**.

You've been using a **shovel** and a **hose**.

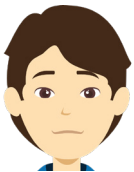
You've been using them for **an hour**.

Wendy Wild

You've been wearing **mosquito repellent**.

You've been using a **torch** and a **sleeping bag**.

You've been using them for **two days**.



Russell Up

You've been wearing an **apron**.

You've been using a **whisk** and a **pan**.

You've been using them for **half an hour**.

Donna Dret

You've been wearing a **dress**.

You've been using **clothes pegs** and a **basket**.

You've been using them for **ten minutes**.



Colin Catchit

You've been wearing **waterproof clothing**.

You've been using a **rod** and a **net**.

You've been using them for **an hour and a half**.

Sally Stitchup

You've been wearing **jeans** and a **top**.

You've been using a **needle** and **thread**.

You've been using them for **45 minutes**.



What do you think they have been doing?

A. Ask questions to the other people in your group and complete the chart with their answers.

Name	Clothes	Items used	Length of time

B. Now, read the information in the chart, guess what each person has been doing and complete the sentences with your answers using the present perfect continuous.

1. Freddie
2. Dorothy
3. Gary
4. Wendy
5. Russell
6. Donna
7. Colin
8. Sally
9. has been doing his / her activity the longest.
10. has been doing his / her activity for the least amount of time.