

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.

Tell the students that they are going to 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.

Explain that in order to complete the chart the 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 write their own information in the chart to begin.

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

When the students have finished, they look at the information in the chart and guess what each person has been doing. Students then complete the 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**.

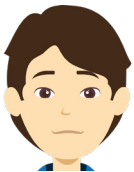
You've been using them for **an hour**.

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. Talk to the other people in your group and write down their information in the chart.

Name	Clothes	Items used	Length of time

B. Now, look at the information in the chart and guess what each person has been doing. 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.