

# Lesson 14

In the previous lesson we learned how to use the helping verb HAVE to show completion.

In this lesson we will learn how to use HAVE to show that an action started in the past and continued until some point.

## The verb HAVE

### **Quick note:**

In the [simple present tense](#) the verb HAVE has these two forms:

- I, you, we, they → **have**
- She, he, it → **has**

We will use these forms in our examples and exercises.

## The verb HAVE as a helping verb:

### 2. The action continued before it was complete

The helping verb HAVE is used to show that an action started in the past, and continued up until the present.

To do that, we add the helping verb **be**, in its third form: **been**.

V1	V2	V3
be	was/were	been

In addition, the main verb ends in ING. For example, walk → walking

Here is how we do it:

**Subject + have + been + main verb + the rest of the sentence**

Example:

**I have been walking for an hour.**

Here are some more examples:

Megan **has been reading** for hours.

Robert **has been waiting** for the past 30 minutes.

He **has been yelling** like that since he got here.

I **have been working** in this place for over 20 years, so I want to try something new.

I feel pretty tired since we **have been traveling** all night.

### 3. To show something was happening lately

We also use this structure to show that something was happening lately.

Lately, you **have been eating** a lot of ice cream.

Melissa **has been working** very hard recently.

Marge and Tim **have been fighting** often in the last month.

Lately, Ashley **has been exercising**.

## Lesson 14, Worksheet

**A. Make five sentences of your own with HAVE as a helping verb with the following meaning.**

**1. The helping verb HAVE is used to show that an action started in the past, and continued up until the present.**

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**2. We also use this structure to show that something was happening lately.**

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**B. Put in the correct form of the helping verbs HAVE and BE.**

1. You \_\_\_\_\_ sleeping for over 10 hours. Get up!
2. Jane \_\_\_\_\_ working out for a few hours, so now she is a bit tired.
3. The cat \_\_\_\_\_ sitting under the couch for the past hour.
4. You \_\_\_\_\_ looking around since you got here. Try to relax.
5. Lately, they \_\_\_\_\_ working well together.
6. It \_\_\_\_\_ raining the whole week.
7. His brother \_\_\_\_\_ feeling better.
8. Recently, I \_\_\_\_\_ taking the bus.

**C. The following sentences are all mixed up.**

**Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.**

1. been house They cleaning have the morning all.

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2. for has afternoon waiting been you all She.

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3. lately been show watching have this We.

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4. John months has few been past dating the for Kathrin.

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5. white has are been snowing It roads all the night, now so.

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6. eating I been so have bit sick all feel that junk food, I a.

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## Lesson 14, Worksheet – Answers

### B. Put in the correct form of the verb HAVE.

1. You have been sleeping for over 10 hours. Get up!
2. Jane has been working out for a few hours, so now she is a bit tired.
3. The cat has been sitting under the couch for the past hour.
4. You have been looking around since you got here. Try to relax.
5. Lately, they have been working well together.
6. It has been raining the whole week.
7. His brother has been feeling better.
8. Recently, I have been taking the bus.

### C. The following sentences are all mixed up.

Put the words on each line in the correct order to make a logical sentence.

1. Jim has lost his car keys.
2. They have brought their dog.
3. I have seen that movie several times.
4. I have just finished my tasks.
5. She has never met an astronaut.
6. You have completed this exercise.

# English Helping Verbs Course

by

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