



Advanced Present Tenses — B2 exercises

Printable worksheet · 23 questions · answer key with explanations on the last page
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Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 23

A. Multiple choice

10 questions

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Ordinarily she works from the Berlin office, but she ____ from Lisbon until the refurbishment finishes.
A) works B) has worked C) has been working D) is working
2. Don't judge him by today — he ____ unusually short with everyone because the audit starts tomorrow.
A) is B) has been C) was D) is being
3. I ____ that report twice already this morning and I still cannot follow the methodology.
A) have read B) have been reading C) read D) am reading
4. Her hands are covered in paint because she ____ the studio since eight this morning.
A) has been decorating B) has decorated C) decorates D) is decorating
5. The board ____ constantly rewriting the strategy, which makes long-term planning impossible.
A) has B) is C) does D) are being
6. Which sentence describes a permanent professional fact rather than a temporary one?
A) She's covering the science desk this month. B) She's reporting from Nairobi at the moment.
C) She's been reporting all week. D) She reports on climate policy.
7. Which sentence uses a stative verb correctly in the continuous?
A) I am knowing the answer already. B) We are owning two properties.
C) She is believing his account. D) I'm thinking of moving abroad next year.
8. So I walk into the meeting and the chair ____ halfway through my own proposal.
A) was already B) is already C) has already been D) already was
9. How long ____ on the manuscript before you finally sent it to the publisher's reader?
A) had you been working B) have you been working C) are you working D) do you work
10. The difference between 'I've painted the hallway' and 'I've been painting the hallway' is that ____.
A) the first is more formal than the second
B) the first reports a finished result, the second the time spent
C) the second is grammatically incorrect
D) the first refers to the past and the second to the present

B. Fill in the blank

8 questions

Write the missing word or words in the gap.

1. She normally lectures in Manchester, but this term she _____ teaching a course in Vienna.
2. He's _____ awkward about the handover, which is unlike him — he is usually the first to help.
3. We have _____ waiting for the surveyor's report since the middle of March.
4. I've read four of the shortlisted titles and I still _____ decided which one deserves the prize.
5. That printer is always _____ down five minutes before a deadline.
6. How long _____ you been living out of a suitcase?
7. I _____ what you mean, but I am not convinced the evidence supports it.
8. The children _____ exhausted because they have been swimming for two hours.

C. Sentence building

5 questions

Put the words in the correct order and write the sentence on the line.

1. She / is / in / Milan / the / office / living / relocates. / while

Say where someone is based only temporarily.

2. been / the / afternoon. / I / have / chapter / reading / same / all

Emphasise how long the activity has gone on rather than what you finished.

3. pass. / his / losing / He / is / always / security

Complain about a habit rather than simply reporting it.

4. being / unusually / this / quiet / You / evening. / are

Treat a quality as behaviour happening now.

5. Monday. / at / ten / opens / except / every / gallery / day / The

State a permanent timetable.

Answer key

Every answer carries the reason behind it. Read the reason for the questions you got right as well — that is where you find out whether you were right for the right reason.

A. Multiple choice

1. **D) is working** — A temporary arrangement with a stated end point takes the present continuous, not the simple.
2. **D) is being** — Is being turns an adjective into deliberate behaviour on this occasion rather than a permanent trait.
3. **A) have read** — A counted, completed quantity takes the present perfect simple; the continuous would measure duration instead.
4. **A) has been decorating** — Visible present evidence of an activity that ran up to now is the present perfect continuous.
5. **B) is** — Continuous plus constantly expresses irritation at a repeated action, so the auxiliary is is.
6. **D) She reports on climate policy.** — The present simple states what someone permanently does; the other three are all bounded in time.
7. **D) I'm thinking of moving abroad next year.** — Think meaning consider is an activity and takes the continuous; know, own and believe stay simple.
8. **B) is already** — The narrative present keeps every verb in the present, which is what makes the anecdote feel immediate.
9. **A) had you been working** — Finally sent places the whole question in the past, so the duration takes the past perfect continuous.
10. **B) the first reports a finished result, the second the time spent** — Present perfect simple reports the completed result; the continuous foregrounds the activity and its duration.

B. Fill in the blank

1. **is** — This term marks a temporary arrangement, so the continuous auxiliary is required.
2. **being** — Being reframes a trait as behaviour on this occasion rather than as permanent character.
3. **been** — The present perfect continuous is have plus been plus the -ing form.
4. **haven't** — A decision not yet made at this moment takes the negative present perfect.
5. **breaking** — Always plus the -ing form expresses exasperation at a repeated irritation.
6. **have** — The auxiliary in a present perfect continuous question comes before the subject.
7. **see** — See meaning understand is stative, so it stays in the simple form.
8. **are** — A present state resulting from the activity takes the simple present of be.

C. Sentence building

1. **She is living in Milan while the office relocates.**
2. **I have been reading the same chapter all afternoon.**
3. **He is always losing his security pass.**
4. **You are being unusually quiet this evening.**
5. **The gallery opens at ten every day except Monday.**