

5.1 Are you creative?

Grammar Present Perfect Continuous and Present Perfect Simple

Can do describe your response to a picture



Speaking and listening

- 1 Work in pairs and look at the paintings. Which do you like/dislike? Why?
- 2 **a** 1:39 Listen to three people talking about the paintings at an exhibition. Number the pictures in the order they talk about them.
b Look at the How to... box. Then listen again and tick (✓) the phrases you hear.

How to... describe your response to a picture

It makes me feel ...
It reminds me of ...
I think it's meant to show ...
I like the way ...
It looks (as if) ...

- c** Look at the adjectives in the box. Which adjectives do the speakers use to describe each poster? Listen again and check.

colourful depressing disturbing
intriguing odd sad striking
unusual vivid

- 3 Work in pairs. Choose one of the paintings on this page or another painting you know and describe it using the phrases in the How to... box.



- 4 **a** Work in pairs. Which of these activities do you think is creative? Why/Why not?
 - painting
 - learning a language
 - writing poems or stories
 - housework
 - discovering a new scientific theory
 - cooking
 - solving a problem at work

b Which of these definitions of creativity do you agree with?

Being creative is about creating works of art: painting; music; poems and so on.

Being creative is about using your imagination to do anything. Everyone is creative in different ways.

To be truly creative you have to be original; to do something in a completely new way.

- 5 **a** 1:40 Listen to Mike, Tom and Ruth talking about creativity and answer the questions.

- 1 Which definition in exercise 4b does each speaker agree with?
- 2 What does each speaker do that is creative?

b Listen again. Who says these phrases? Write *Mike, Tom or Ruth*.

- 1 I've been trying to open my own restaurant for ages ...
- 2 I've given some away as birthday presents ...
- 3 I've been playing with my three children this morning and the room is a complete mess ...
- 4 I've made up lots of my own recipes.
- 5 I've been taking classes ... for three months.

c Work in pairs. What do you do that is creative? Tell your partner.

Grammar | Present Perfect Continuous and Present Perfect Simple

- 6 **a** Look at the sentences in exercise 5b. Which use the Present Perfect Simple and which use the Present Perfect Continuous?

b Read the Active grammar box. Then match the example sentences (1–3) with the rules (A–C).

- 1 I've been trying to phone you.
- 2 I've been studying Chinese since last year.
- 3 I've been trying to lose weight for the summer.

Active grammar

We use both the Present Perfect Simple and Continuous to talk about actions/states or activities which have some connection to now. We use the Present Perfect Continuous (*have/has + been + ing*) ...

A to emphasise how long something has taken.

I've been trying to start my own business for ages.

e.g. sentence _____

B to indicate that an activity or a situation is temporary or incomplete.

I've been staying here while I try to buy a flat.

e.g. sentence _____

C to emphasise the repetition of an activity.

I've been going jogging every night.

e.g. sentence _____

see Reference page 75

- 7 The sentences below use the wrong verb tenses. Work in pairs and say why the underlined tenses are wrong.

- 1 A: How long have you waited?
B: Hours!
- 2 I've cleaned this morning. I've almost finished.
- 3 A: I've been giving up smoking!
B: That's great. Do you feel healthier?
- 4 A: How long have you been knowing Jim?
B: About two months.
- 5 Sorry I haven't seen much of you lately, I've played tennis every weekend.

Pronunciation | weak forms

- 8 **a** 1:41 Listen to the following sentences. What happens to the pronunciation of *have* and *been*?

- 1 I've been swimming.
- 2 I've been learning Chinese.
- 3 We've been living abroad.
- 4 They've been looking after me.

b Listen again and repeat.

see Pronunciation bank page 164

- 9 **a** Read the blog and complete it with the Present Perfect Simple or Present Perfect Continuous form of the verb in brackets. Sometimes both may be possible.

What I've been doing lately ...

This morning is the first time for a while I have been able to (be able to) to write my blog. The last few weeks (1) _____ (be) very busy. I (2) _____ (work) hard on a new painting. When it's finished, it's going to be part of an exhibition at Newport Gallery. I (3) _____ (never/exhibit) there before but it is a lovely space.

Jon (4) _____ (start) his new job. He seems to be enjoying it and he (5) _____ (make) a lot of new friends.

And we (6) _____ (look) at houses. We (7) _____ (stay) with my parents while we try to find the perfect place. It isn't that easy. I (8) _____ (see) one I liked but Jon wasn't very keen.

b Write your own blog about what you have been doing lately.

c Work in pairs. Show your partner your blog and answer their questions about it.