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Grammar in practice

Jennifer Seidl



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Introduction

Grammar in practice 2 has been written for adolescents and adults who wish to proceed beyond the elementary level in English. It follows on from *Grammar in practice 1*, but it can also be used independently. It is a grammar-exercise book which includes grammar points at a pre-intermediate to intermediate level.

The book is divided into twenty-five sections, each dealing with one (or two) main grammar items. Each item is presented in context by means of a short dialogue or narrative. This is then followed by a simple grammar summary with examples. After this, there are several exercises varying in kind and in degree of difficulty. All exercises are contextualized. Several of the exercises are based on material from newspapers, brochures, information leaflets, etc., and take the form of lists, tables, notices, advertisements, or signs. A unique feature of this approach is that the student uses language to solve a problem, to interpret a table, to compare lists: he uses language as a means to an end, not as an end in itself.

There are one hundred and twenty exercises including an appendix on tense usage. Exercises are headed by examples where necessary. The context for several of the exercises is provided by a group of characters, who introduce the grammar items in neutral or informal language. There is a key at the end of the book for students working on their own.

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1 Present perfect continuous

Who's who?



This is Jill Baxter. And this is Steve Baxter.

Steve Baxter is a journalist in London. He's been writing for the *Daily News* since 1977.

Jill Baxter is a teacher. She's been teaching English to foreign students for about six years.

Jeff Baxter is Steve's brother. He's an architect.

Pam Baxter is Jeff's wife. She's a housewife, but she's been doing a temporary office job since August. Pam and Jeff have two children, Kate and Mark.

Barbara and Harry are Steve's colleagues. Barbara's new to the job. She hasn't been working for the *Daily News* for very long.

Jill has fourteen students on her present summer course. They've been staying in London since 1st July. They are:

Present perfect continuous

Surname	First name	Country	Occupation
Mr Badran	Ali	Egypt	doctor of medicine
Mr Berger	Maurice	France	student
Mr Deng	Chu Wen	China	doctor of chemistry
Miss Dubois	Pascale	Switzerland	art teacher
Miss de Lacerda	Luisa	Brazil	air hostess
Mr Manolatos	Mikis	Greece	architect
Mr Mazouni	Halim	Algeria	engineer
Miss Mendoza	María	Mexico	secretary
Mrs Olsen	Astrid	Sweden	student
Mr Pérez	Juan	Spain	businessman
Miss Tanaka	Yasuko	Japan	student
Mr Torrini	Enrico	Italy	journalist
Mrs Wade	Annegret	Germany	interpreter, now housewife
Miss Wengli	Monika	Switzerland	travel guide

What have you been doing?

Steve What have you been doing, Jill?

Jill I've been preparing lessons for tomorrow, but I've finished now.

What have you been doing?

Steve I've been watching a very interesting programme on television, about education in China. It's just finished.

Jill Oh, dear, then I've missed it. I thought it was on tomorrow, not today. That was Pam on the phone ten minutes ago. She's been sewing new curtains all the evening, and Jeff's been painting radiators. Apparently, they've been working very hard all the week.

By the way, have you put the car in the garage?

Steve Yes, why? Has it been raining again?

Present perfect continuous

I	have been	waiting.	Have	I	been	waiting?
You				you		
We				we		
You				you		
They				they		
He	has been	waiting.	Has	he	been	waiting?
She				she		
It	has been	raining.	Has	it	been	raining?

Present perfect continuous

I	have not	been	waiting.
You	(haven't)		
We			
You			
They			
He	has not	been	waiting.
She	(hasn't)		
It	has not	been	raining.
	(hasn't)		

Short answers

Has it been raining?

Yes, it has.

No, it hasn't.

Have you been waiting?

Yes, I have.

No, I haven't, etc.

Use

For an action which began in the past and is still in progress.

Steve has been working for the *Daily News* since 1977.

Steve has been working for the *Daily News* for five years. (He is still working for the *Daily News*.)

For an action which was in progress in the past and has just finished.

I've been watching an interesting programme on television.

Note 1

Not usually in the continuous: hate, know, like, love, prefer, remember, seem, understand.

Note 2

For with a period of time.

For five years.

Since with a point of time.

Since 1977.

Present perfect continuous

Exercise 1

Use the present perfect continuous.

Evening classes

Pam	Car maintenance	began in May
	Keep-fit	over a year
	French	about 2 years
Jill	Dress-making	began in January
	Keep-fit	over a year
Steve	Guitar	began in February
	Spanish	3 months
Jeff	Photography	6 months
	French	about 2 years
Harry	Woodwork	began last autumn
	Art	September 1979
Barbara	Cookery	began in November
	Photography	6 months
	Yoga	3 months

Who's learning to play the guitar?

Steve. *He's been learning to play since February.*

- 1 Who's taking cookery classes?
- 2 Who goes to dress-making classes?
- 3 Who's learning French?
- 4 Who's taking woodwork classes?
- 5 Who's doing a course in photography?
- 6 Who goes to keep-fit classes?
- 7 Who attends an art class?
- 8 Who goes to yoga classes?
- 9 Who goes to car maintenance classes?
- 10 Who's learning Spanish?

Exercise 2

Ask questions with *how long*.

María is a secretary. She works for Volkswagen in Mexico City.

How long have you been working for Volkswagen, María?

- 1 Juan is a businessman in Madrid. He exports Spanish antiques.
- 2 Yasuko is a student at a university in Tokyo. She studies English.
- 3 Monika is a travel guide for a Swiss company. She travels with Eurotours.
- 4 Ali is a doctor. He works at the University Hospital in Cairo.
- 5 Enrico is a journalist. He writes for *Il Tempo*.

- 6 Pascale is a teacher in Geneva. She teaches art.
- 7 Halim is an engineer in Algiers. He works for Sonatrach.
- 8 Mikis is an architect in Athens. He designs houses.

Exercise 3

Use *for* or *since*. See Exercise 2.

María	3 years
Juan	1975
Yasuko	one and a half years
Monika	1977
Ali	last summer
Enrico	4 years
Pascale	last September
Halim	2 years
Mikis	about 3 years

María has been working for Volkswagen for three years.
Continue.

Exercise 4

Complete with the present perfect continuous.

Ali Oh, hello. I've been in the library.

Chu Wen And what you (do) there?

Ali I (read) a book about education in England for our lesson tomorrow. I'm going home now.

Chu Wen It (rain) again, but it's stopped now.

Ali Well, I've got an umbrella in my briefcase, in case it starts again. What are you doing now?

Chu Wen I'm waiting for Maurice. I (wait) for over ten minutes. Oh, look. There he is now.

Maurice Hello, sorry I'm a bit late. I (do) some shopping. You (wait) long?

Exercise 5

Complete with the present perfect or the present perfect continuous.

Steve Hello, Pam. What are you all doing?

Pam Oh, hello, Steve. What a surprise! Jeff's outside. He's cleaning the car. In fact, he (clean) it for over an hour, but he (not finish) yet.

Steve And where are the children? Well, I can hear what Kate's doing.

Pam Yes, she (practise) the violin since after lunch. And Mark's in the garden. He (paint) the fence all afternoon. He hates it. He only (paint) half of it.

Present perfect continuous

Steve And what are you doing, Pam?

Pam Well, nothing at the moment, but I (read) a new novel by Margaret Drabble. I (not finish) it yet, but it's very interesting. I can recommend it. In fact, I (read) all her novels. She's my favourite author. And what's Jill doing? Why she (not come) with you?

Steve She's busy. In fact, she (work) all day. She has to prepare a test for tomorrow.

Pam Well, how about a nice cup of coffee?

Exercise 6

Present perfect or present perfect continuous. Use *for* or *since*.

Jill phones Pam at the office.

Jill How long you (work) for Barnett & Company?

Pam ——— three weeks, ——— the beginning of August. Jeff (know) Graham Barnett ——— their college days.

Jill Do you like the work?

Pam Yes, but it's very hectic here. I (type) letters ——— three hours, and I (not finish) yet. I (not have) a cup of tea ——— breakfast at 7, and I (not smoke) a cigarette ——— after breakfast.

Jill Cigarettes? But you don't smoke! Have you started again?

Pam Yes, unfortunately.

Jill And how long you (smoke) again?

Pam ——— three weeks, ——— I started work in this hectic office.

Exercise 7

Saving

Name	How long?	How much?
Mary	January	£25
Bill	6 months	£135
Sue	March	£16
Bob	a year	£230
Pat	last summer	£30
Lucy	April	£98
Richard	3 months	£139
Helen	almost 2 years	£68

Mary has been saving since January, but she has only saved £25. Bill has been saving for 6 months and he's already saved £135.

Continue.

2 So do I, neither do I

English food

Pascale I like tea with milk and sugar.

Luisa So do I, but I don't like the coffee here, and neither does María.

It's too weak. Can you cook English food?

Pascale No, not very well.

Luisa Neither can I. But we had a good meal last night at Stone's Chop House. They call it 'The home of traditional English food'.

Pascale Yes, in Leicester Square. So did we. What a coincidence! I didn't see you there. But isn't eating out in London expensive! I've spent so much money on food.

Luisa So have I, and I've also put on weight.

So do I, neither do I

Affirmative

Pascale *likes* English tea.

So do I. / So does María.

Luisa *ate* at Stone's yesterday.

So did we.

Negative

Luisa *doesn't like* English coffee.

Neither does Pascale.

Annegret *didn't eat* at Stone's.

Nor did Yasuko.

Auxiliary verbs

Pascale *has* spent a lot of money on food.

So has Luisa.

Pascale *can't* cook English food.

Neither can Luisa.

Pascale *isn't* hungry.

Neither is Luisa.

Use

For a short comment in agreement with a statement.

Note 1

Neither and *nor* mean the same.

Note 2

Remember, after *so* . . . and *neither* . . . the verb is always affirmative.

So do I, neither do I

Exercise 8

Sports

	Tennis	Sailing	Swimming	Skiing	Riding	Golf
Maurice		•	•		•	
Juan			•	•		•
Yasuko	•	•	•			
Monika	•		•	•	•	

Yasuko can play tennis.

Juan can't sail.

So can Monika.

Neither can Monika.

- 1 Yasuko can swim.
- 2 Monika can ski.
- 3 Juan can't ride.
- 4 Maurice can't play golf.
- 5 Maurice can ride.
- 6 Juan can't play tennis.
- 7 Maurice can sail.
- 8 Yasuko can't ski.

Exercise 9

Hotels in Torremolinos, Costa del Sol

Hotel Alexandra

swimming-pool
two sun terraces
three lounges
three restaurants
hairdressing salon
tennis-court
games room

Hotel Marina

swimming-pool
sun terraces
two comfortable lounges
two restaurants
hairdressing salon
sauna and massage centre
boutique

Hotel Florida

swimming-pool
sun terrace
three lounges
bar
coffee shop
tennis-court
children's playground
car park

Hotel Monopol

two swimming-pools
two sun terraces
three spacious lounges
three restaurants
hairdressing salon
children's playground
sauna and massage centre
nightclub
boutique

The Alexandra has got three restaurants.
The Marina hasn't got a car park.

*So has the Monopol.
Neither have the
Alexandra and the
Monopol.*

- 1 The Alexandra has got a hairdressing salon.
- 2 The Marina has got a sauna and massage centre.
- 3 The Alexandra hasn't got a children's playground.
- 4 The Marina has got a boutique.
- 5 The Florida hasn't got a games room.
- 6 The Monopol has got three lounges.
- 7 The Marina hasn't got a nightclub.
- 8 The Alexandra has got more than one sun terrace.
- 9 The Monopol hasn't got a tennis-court.
- 10 The Florida hasn't got two swimming-pools.

Exercise 10

Used cars

Ford Alpine GLS

1978, blue, 5-door,
radio, excellent
condition, taxed until
December.

£2,725

Renault 20TS

1979, automatic, red,
4-door, sunroof, radio,
taxed until September.

£4,525

So do I, neither do I

Morris Marina 1.8

1979, red, 4-door, sun-roof, excellent condition.

£3,875

Datsun 160B

1978, dark blue, 4-door, radio, excellent condition.

£3,125

The Ford is a 1978 model. *So is the Datsun.*

- 1 The Ford is in excellent condition.
- 2 The Datsun is blue.
- 3 The Morris isn't an automatic car.
- 4 The Renault is a 1979 model.
- 5 The Morris isn't taxed.
- 6 The Renault isn't a 5-door model.
- 7 The Morris is red.
- 8 The Ford is taxed.
- 9 The Morris isn't blue.
- 10 The Datsun is a 4-door model.

Exercise 11

Job vacancies

A

Secretary/PA

With good shorthand/typing skills and fluent French required for Sales Manager of international company. The job involves travel and a lot of organization work. Excellent salary, modern offices in Victoria, five weeks' holiday.

Ring Susan Gill
01-636 0239.

B

Legal

Personal Assistant
£4800 +

Busy solicitors' office in West End. Good shorthand/typing and legal experience essential. Excellent working conditions, 5 weeks' holiday.

Please contact Mr J. Banks
Tel 01-629 9923.

C

Audio Secretary

for Overseas Dept. of City bank. Previous banking experience, spoken and written French essential. Some travel involved. Salary negotiable. Excellent working conditions. 5 weeks' holiday.

Telephone Michael Hill
01-435 9101.

D

Secretary (Audio)

£5000

required for Fashion Company with offices in Mayfair. No previous experience in fashion necessary. The job involves travel in UK. Current driving licence essential. If you have good typing and audio skills and an ability to organize, contact Jane Weathers, 01-734 1129. We offer 4 weeks' holiday, flexi-hours, and luncheon vouchers.

Job A requires French.

So does Job C.

Job A doesn't offer flexible working hours.

Neither do jobs B and C.

- 1 Job A requires good shorthand.
- 2 Job C doesn't state the salary.
- 3 Job A offers 5 weeks' holiday.
- 4 Job B requires previous experience.
- 5 Job A doesn't offer luncheon vouchers.
- 6 Job B offers excellent working conditions.
- 7 Job A doesn't require a driving licence.
- 8 Job D requires ability to organize.
- 9 Job C doesn't require shorthand.
- 10 Job A involves travel.

Exercise 12

Weekend

On Saturday, Juan and Ali went to Cambridge by train. They had a nice day. Halim went to Windsor. He went alone, as Enrico had a bad headache. Two of the students went to Oxford for the day, María and Yasuko. They rented bicycles because it was a lovely, warm day. On Sunday it rained, so Juan stayed at home. Ali decided to go to Windsor by bus. It was quite a long ride, but he enjoyed the

So do I, neither do I

countryside. In the afternoon, he had tea in a tea-shop near the Castle and was surprised to see Yasuko there. She was also spending the day in Windsor, in spite of the rain. María didn't go anywhere. She wanted to write some letters and wash some clothes. Halim spent the day in Oxford.

On Saturday, Juan went to Cambridge.
So did Ali.

Halim didn't go to Cambridge on Saturday.
Neither did María and Yasuko.

- 1 On Saturday, María rented a bicycle in Oxford.
- 2 On Sunday, Yasuko went to Windsor.
- 3 On Saturday, Halim didn't go to Oxford.
- 4 On Sunday, Juan stayed at home.
- 5 On Sunday, Halim didn't go to Windsor.
- 6 Ali spent Sunday in Windsor.
- 7 María didn't go to Cambridge on Saturday.
- 8 Ali went somewhere on both days.

Exercise 13

Use *so ... or neither ...*

Trains from London Paddington to Birmingham

Paddington	Reading	Didcot	Oxford	Coventry	Birmingham
12.50 X ✕ ☐	13.43	→	14.18	→	15.40
13.50 S ✕ ☐	14.12	14.29	14.51	15.55	16.31
15.50 X	16.22	→	16.51	→	18.18
17.41 X 125	→	→	→	→	20.09
19.00 S ☐	19.00	19.32	19.50	20.07	21.40

Notes

S Saturdays only

X Saturdays excepted

✕ Restaurant service according to time of day

☐ Buffet service of drinks and cold snacks

125 High speed inter-city service

- 1 The 12.50 doesn't stop at Didcot.
- 2 The 13.50 stops at Reading.
- 3 The 12.50 has got a restaurant car.