



The selfie revolution

Lesson code: FC1T-P6ZB-6CKB

INTERMEDIATE +

1 Warm-up

What is a selfie? Do you take selfies? When/where?

2 Key words

Complete the definitions with the correct words below:

airbrush
share

draw attention
terminally

make a fuss
vain

out of fashion
viral

1. If something goes _____, it is not popular anymore.
2. If somebody is _____, they are too proud of their appearance or abilities.
3. If you _____ a photo, you improve it with special equipment or computer software.
4. If something goes _____, it becomes extremely popular on the internet.
5. If a person is _____ ill, they have an illness that cannot be cured.
6. If you _____ about something, you show unnecessary excitement or interest about it.
7. If you _____ something on Facebook or Twitter, you let other people see, read or use it.
8. If you _____ to something, you focus on it.

3 Find the information

You are going to read an article about selfies. Find the information below in the text.

1. Who took a selfie that raised £3 million?
2. Which religious leader took selfies with fans?
3. When was the first selfie taken?
4. Where was the selfie taken?
5. What does it show?
6. Where was it shared?



THE
INDEPENDENT

Selfies: a visual revolution?

They are not just a vain trend. They are also a form of communication.

- 1 What to say about the selfie? Good or bad? Are they going out of fashion or are they a symbol of our vain times? And which to do? A no-make-up selfie? Gym selfie? Is it OK to airbrush? And what if, after all of that, nobody bothers to "like" it?
- 2 It seems that almost every week, a selfie is on the news. There's the thumbs-up selfie by a 19-year old terminally ill patient, which went viral and raised £3 million. There were selfies taken by Pope Francis with fans at the Vatican. There was the first selfie from Space, and that Obama funeral selfie.
- 3 We have been making a fuss about the selfie recently, especially since the word entered our dictionaries. It is like we have discovered something new and brilliant. In fact, we were taking selfies for most of the past century. For example, there's a photo that has been shared on Twitter. It shows five men on the roof of the Marceau Studio in New York, looking into the lens of an old analogue camera. It's possibly the world's first selfie. The date is December 1920.
- 4 "We didn't have a word for it until recently," says Jason Feifer, creator of the infamous 'Selfies at a Funeral' on the social networking site Tumblr. "And it is the word 'selfie', I think, which helped draw so much attention to them. Will we get bored of taking selfies? I doubt it. Selfies are a convenient way to document yourself. But I'm sure we'll get bored of talking about selfies, or treating them like they're new."
- 5 The fact is, we live in a world in which we all have cameraphones. The new generation has grown up with them. Young people have created a new visual language which is understood by both sender and recipient. Communicating with this new visual language takes less time than writing long text messages.

Adapted from The Independent, by Lena Corner, 12 May 2014

4 Checking understanding

Put T (True) or F (False) next to the statements below. Correct the statements which are false.

1. The writer thinks that selfies are something new.
2. The word 'selfie' has made people draw attention to selfies.
3. According to Jason Feifer, people will get bored of taking selfies.
4. According to Jason Feifer, people will get bored of talking about selfies.
5. It takes more time to communicate with selfies than with long text messages.



5 Find the words

Find the words and phrases from the text which mean ...

1. takes the time or trouble to do something (*verb, P1*) _____
2. a ceremony or service held shortly after a person's death (*noun, P2*) _____
3. famous for a bad reason (*adjective, P4*) _____
4. easy to do/use (*adjective, P4*) _____
5. someone who receives a message (*noun, P5*) _____

Now complete the sentences below with the above words/phrases:

1. Tim didn't _____ to do his homework. He was too lazy.
2. My smartphone is very _____ — I can do so many things with it.
3. Jesse James was an _____ bank robber who lived in the United States in the 19th century.
4. The _____ of my email didn't get the message. There must be a problem with the email service.
5. Everybody came to Joanne's _____ to pay their respects.

6 Talking point

Discuss any of the questions below:

1. Do people talk about selfies in your country?
2. What do you think of this trend?
3. Do you think people are too vain nowadays?
4. Can you think of other modern trends? What do you think of them?



7 Grammar in the text - Present perfect simple vs continuous

Complete the rules below with ...

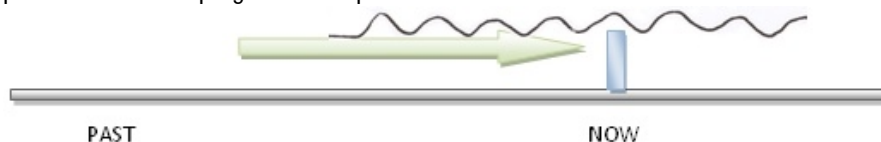
present perfect (*have/has + past participle*) **present perfect continuous** (*have/has + been + -ing*)

1. We often use the _____ to talk about a recent event or a change that began in the past and is complete in the present.



*It is like we have discovered something new and brilliant.
 Young people have created a new visual language.*

2. We often use the _____ to talk about unfinished activities that started in the past and are still in progress in the present.



We have been making a fuss about the selfie recently.

Remember: If we say 'when' something happened in the past (for example, 2 months ago, last year, yesterday, etc.), we cannot use the present perfect tenses. We use a past tense.

8 Recent changes

Form sentences with the present perfect simple to describe the recent changes below. Make the sentences true like in the examples.

- communication / become / easier Communication has become easier.
- English / stop / learning English People haven't stopped learning English.
- smartphones / make / our lives easier
- technology / create / new trends
- people / stop / watching television
- global temperatures / increase
- my English / improve
- the transport system in my country / become / more efficient



9 Recent events

Complete the sentences below with the verbs in the present perfect simple.

discover break finish hear open receive steal win

1. Scientists have discovered a cure for cancer!
2. Brazil _____ the World Cup!
3. It's cold in here. _____ someone _____ the window?
4. Look at Tom. It looks like he _____ his leg.
5. I can't find my wallet. I think someone _____ it.
6. At last! I _____ my homework!
7. _____ the news? Norman _____ a promotion.

10 Recent unfinished activities

Complete the sentences below with the present perfect continuous.

work look for rain run sleep spend teach wait

1. Julia is exhausted. She 's been working hard for over 10 hours.
2. If you want to go outside, you'll need an umbrella. It _____ all morning.
3. People in my country _____ less money over the past few years because of the economic situation.
4. Scientists _____ a cure for cancer for centuries.
5. Joe is a teacher. He _____ since June.
6. They are almost at the end of the marathon. They _____ for over three hours.
7. Are you nearly here? I _____ for over 20 minutes!
8. It's nearly midday. How long _____ Dan _____ ?



1 Warm-up

Encourage a short warm-up discussion.

2 Key words

- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1. out of fashion | 2. vain | 3. airbrush | 4. viral |
| 5. terminally | 6. make a fuss | 7. share | 8. draw attention |

3 Find the information

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. a 19-year old terminally ill patient | 2. Pope Francis |
| 3. December 1920 | 4. New York |
| 5. five men on the roof of the Marceau Studio | 6. on Twitter |

4 Checking understanding

- | | |
|--|------|
| 1. F - selfies were taken in the past century | 2. T |
| 3. F - they're a convenient way to document yourself | 4. T |
| 5. F - it takes less time | |

5 Find the words

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. bothers (to do) | 2. funeral | 3. infamous | 4. convenient | 5. recipient |
| 1. bother | 2. convenient | 3. infamous | 4. recipient | 5. funeral |

7 Grammar in the text - Present perfect simple vs continuous

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. present perfect simple (have/has + pp) | 2. past perfect continuous (have/has + been + -ing) |
|---|---|

8 Recent changes

- | | |
|--|---|
| 3. Smartphones have made our lives easier. | 4. Technology has created new trends. |
| 5. People haven't stopped watching television. | 6. Global temperatures have increased. |
| 7. My English has/hasn't improved. | 8. The transport system in my country has/hasn't become more efficient. |

9 Recent events

- | | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| 2. have won | 3. Has someone opened | 4. 's broken | 5. has stolen |
| 6. 've finished | 7. Have you heard/has received | | |

10 Recent unfinished activities



- 2. 's been raining
- 5. 's been teaching
- 8. has Dan been sleeping

- 3. have been spending
- 6. 've been running

- 4. have been looking for
- 7. 've been waiting

