**EASY ACCESS ENGLISH**

# What's been going on ?

**Activity One** – **Listen** to the song and follow the lyrics. **Write a number next to each of the images according to their sequence in the song.**

And no one says a word to me
They're concerned with my jealousy
Well I guess that's how it's gotta be
From now on

And time, it swallows everything
From the mighty to the meagre thing
And it's as dark as it is comforting
To play along

Well what's been going on?
What's been going on?
What's been going on?
Around here

There goes her old beat up car
Outside of our old favourite bar
She's proudly in there playing her guitar
With stars in her eyes

Those are some of my favourite memories

All of those carefree melodies
While I'm out of here on this raging sea
About to capsize

Well what's been going on?
What's been going on?
What's been going on?
Around here

What's been going on?
What's been going on?
What's been going on?
Around here

And no one says a word to me
They're concerned with my jealousy
I guess that's how it's gotta be
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**Activity Two** Answer the questions about the song you have been listening to.

In your opinion, what's been going on before the moment when he is singing the song ?

1. Who is he observing?
2. What kind of a car does she drive?
3. What has changed?
4. Why does no one tell him the truth?
5. What does he think things will be like in the future?

**Activing Three** – **How to answer** if someone asks you what's been going on!

In order to answer this question you will often after use – been doing. We use this structure with 'Since' – a date or specific time, (since we last met, since I last saw you) or for a period of time (for a long time, for three years, for ages).

Here are some examples.

- I have been working here for ten years.
- I have been working here since 2002
- I have been thinking a lot about you since we last met.
- I have been trying to forget about you since we last met.

So it's always **have been +ING** – do you know what **tense** that is?

It's the **Present Perfect Progressive** Ex: - He has been learning English for ten years.

Used for:

- putting emphasis on the course or duration (not the result)
- action that recently stopped or is still going on
- finished action that influenced the present

Used with : ***all day, for 4 years, since 1993, how long?, the whole week***

**Activity Four** – Ask and answer – with your partner or other people in the group.

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|---|
| 1. What have you been doing since our last lesson? |
| 2. Where have you been living for the last ten years? |
| 3. Where have you been working (or going to school) since 1999? |
| 4. What have you been reading since I last saw you? |
| 5. What have you been working on this week? |

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## **Activity Five** – other **connectors** for **marking time.**

**Marking time**

***For*** **connects with a duration of time, usually expressed as a number, and is used with nearly all tenses. We also say** ***for a long time***, ***for a short period*** **etc.**

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***During*** **also connects with a period of time, but expressed as a simple noun. For example,** ***during the show***, ***during the Great Depression***, ***during the meeting*****.**

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***While*** **is used to connect two actions happening at the same time.**

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***Since*** **is used with the present perfect, for the past continuing to the present, and fixes the point where the action started. This is usually a date,** ***since August***, ***since 1995***, **but we also say** ***since I was young***, ***since the beginning of time*****.**

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***Ago*** **is used with the past simple, like the French** ***il y a***, **and fixes an action at a past point of time.**

..

***He lived in Montpellier for 20 years*****. Then he moved to NYC.**

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***Don met his wife during the war years.***

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***You peel the carrots while I cook the meat.***

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***He has worked here since 2009.***

.

***My dog died two years ago.***

.

***He will be on holidays for a few weeks.***

.

***I will do it during the break.***

.

***I don't like to talk while I'm driving.***

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**Since I was young I've done sport.**

.

***He left the office a couple of minutes ago.***

.

## **Activity Six** – Fill the gaps using the correct connector. You have one minute to finish! Watch the stop clock!

1. ……when have you been coming to this centre to learn English?
2. I have been living in Montpellier ……2001.
3. I had the air conditioning installed…… a particularly hot summer.
4. …… you were in your English lesson I had my hair done.
5. Many years …… I decided that I wanted to have blonde hair.
6. …… how long have you been wearing glasses?
7. …… the day I prefer to wear my contact lenses.
8. I have been on a diet …… the last month.
9. Ten years …… I gave up smoking.
10. I have been smoking …… I was fourteen years old,so it was difficult.
11. …… I am working I try to chew gum instead.
12. How long …… did you two meet?
13. It seems like I have known you …… ever.
14. In fact I have only known him …… last summer.
15. We met …… I was on holiday in France.

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**Activity Seven** – What's been going on….

Look at the **images** and comment on **what was going on** in the weeks or month before the scene and then just before the scene.

**Prepare a news broadcast** with your partner. You must talk about each item.










**Activity Eight** – Role Plays….
Prepare and act out a role play where you will meet one of the following people and ask them what's been going on since you last saw them. They have to answer.

- Nicholas Sarkosy
- DSK
- Adele
- Madonna
- The queen of England
- Souleymane Camara