

TENSES - SELECTED CHAPTERS

Das Kapitel "tenses" ist wohl das umfangreichste Grammatik-Kapitel im Schulunterricht der englischen Sprache. In diesem Artikel werden nur einige ausgewählte Aspekte behandelt.

Beginnen wir mit einem Test:

My uncle used to tell a story about arriving at Victoria Station on a train with no toilets, and being desperate to go. At Victoria, Uncle Arnold rushed to the gents and dived into a cubicle. But such was his haste that as he dropped his trousers everything fell out of his pockets, including a penknife, keys and lots of loose change. He then realized that the adjoining cubicle was occupied, when a frightfully posh voice said, "Good God, man what [you, eat]?"

Der geneigte Leser möge jetzt den letzten Fragesatz beenden mit "you" und der passenden Verbform von "to eat". Heißt es "What do you eat?", oder heißt es "What did you eat?", "What were you eating?" oder "What have you eaten?" – oder haben Sie noch eine andere Idee? Nehmen Sie sich Zeit und probieren Sie einige Varianten durch – welche davon gefällt Ihnen am besten? Was würde wohl ein native speaker hier sagen?

Wir haben hier ein Beispiel vor uns (entnommen dem Buch "Tales of the Country" von Brian Viner), wo ein deutschsprachiger Mensch möglicherweise an die Grenzen seiner englischen Sprachkenntnisse stößt – die englische Sprache bietet halt immer wieder Überraschungen. Der vorliegende Artikel "Tenses – selected chapters") behandelt solche Aspekte der englischen Zeiten-Verwendung; die Auswahl des Verfassers spiegelt seine persönliche Einschätzung des "Überraschungsmoments" wider: In der Schule lernt (bzw. unterrichtet) man eine Regel, und in der Praxis sieht es dann doch oft anders aus.

Die Mehrzahl der Beispiel-Sätze hat der Verfasser über Jahrzehnte aus seiner Privatlektüre gesammelt; ein kleinerer Teil stammt aus Internet-Recherche.

Jetzt fehlt noch die "Auflösung" des Tests zu Beginn: Der letzte Satz heißt "What have you been eating?" Näheres zu diesem Thema auf Seite 57 Punkt 4.3.

1. Bemerkungen zur present tense

1. Wir beginnen mit dem Thema present tense simple vs. progressive

Der Verfasser setzt voraus, dass der Leser / die Leserin mit den Grundregeln vertraut ist, die man im Schulunterricht über den Unterschied zwischen present tense simple (My mother cooks dinner for us every day) und present tense progressive (My mother is cooking dinner for us at the moment) lernt.

1.1. Es gibt einige Wendungen, wo man die progressive Form erwarten würde, weil die Handlung "gerade jetzt" abläuft – und trotzdem steht die simple form:

1.1.1. He was two years older than me and, **as I write**, must now be well into his eighties. As I write this in 1014, Voyager I is in interstellar space. (Jimmy Carter) As I write this there stands in my library a thick-branched, beautifully tapering fir tree covered with the gold and purple apples of Hesperides. Even as I write about this now, my skin crawls. Even as I write this, I feel a wave of emotion. As I write, my wife is exploring the possibilities of moving our family to London. As I write today, I am the chamber's sole African American. (Obama, 2006) The issues are so complex that, as I write in the summer of 2005, stage three is still in progress. As I write, in June 2005, the outcome of the case remains undecided. {My wife is an amateur seamstress. As I write this, she is working on a new outfit for our daughter.} As I write this some sixty years later, I am more grateful than these poor words can express. I was pleased by Roger's reaction, but now as I write this I have second thoughts. As I write in late 2011, we are now nearly three years from the bottom of a historically big bear market. I have before me as I write the original Dickens and the alleged posthumous

production so far as I could get it. {I have before me as I write this a brown paper envelope. Torn along its edges, and grubby, it has two labels on the back stuck there by "The Superintendent, Hampshire Constabulary, Police Station, Basingstoke, Hants".} His photograph lies before me as I write. As I write, the television in my mother's bedroom is blaring.

Variante: As I sit writing this from the comfort of my home, friends continue to keep me informed about what's happening in Afghanistan. As I sit writing, I look back on how far we have come as a people and I have come to realise that some things will never change. On a shelf near where I sit writing this, there are half a dozen different editions of the book.

Variante: I write to inform you that your request has been refused. Dear Amanda, It is with great pleasure that we write to inform you of your acceptance to Davidson College, Class of 1996. It is with great regret that we write to inform you that due to extremely difficult market conditions, Netfolio, the Personal Fund Company, will discontinue its online investment advisory service effective Friday, Sept. 14th.

Analog: As I type these final words, I'm resisting all temptation to crack the bottle that's sitting here on my desk. {Even as I type this out, tears flow uncontrollably down my cheeks. I miss my Papa very much.} {We arrived at our swanky hotel only to discover that there had been a mistake. We didn't have a room. And not only did we not have a room, but there were no more rooms available. We would have to find another place to stay. Even as I type this I realize it seems small, but it was too much for me at the time.}

Daneben ist aber auch die progressive form möglich:

As I'm writing these lines I'm checking the brochure of a fancy hotel where I will be spending the next few days. As I am writing these lines, the Palestinian problem has lasted 70 years. Even as I'm writing this, I've yawned twice. But what's important is to communicate what I felt at the time, and what I feel as I'm writing. Even today, as I'm writing this, I find I'm thinking about him. Even as I'm writing this I'm crying again. As I'm writing this, it looks as if Britain has voted to leave the EU.

1.1.2. **As you read this** you think you know what kind of person you are. Even as I read this, I plot a miraculous recovery. As you read that, it's almost like having him present. As you read this, I am in prison in Russia. As you read them, however, something funny happens. Several things are happening as you read these words.

Daneben ist aber auch die progressive form möglich:

I'm especially enjoying the capital at the moment as I'm reading the magnificent "London Belongs to Me" by Norman Collins. Several weeks later the true horror of the place finally floods in, as I'm reading extracts from Svetlana Alexievich's Voices from Chernobyl in the newspaper. As I'm reading, I feel myself experiencing Bella's feelings toward Edward.

1.1.3. Fortunately, my services were not required, **but I digress**. {There's a saying that a great smile is the best accessory, and I have to agree. (Well okay, it might be a close tie with a great pair of shoes, but I digress).} {People ask me all the time, "Will I need to be on medication for the rest of my life?" I am never sure what to answer, which of course annoys them—I went to medical school, didn't I? Didn't they teach me all the mysteries of the organism? But I digress. The short answer to that question is, "How on earth would I know?"} {Nine years. That's how long it has been since this blog came into existence. I've written over 300 posts, probably averaging about 700 words each. For those doing the math at home, that puts me north of 200,000 words hammered out on my keyboard. It's admittedly less than half of *War and Peace's* 587,000 words, but I think that says more about Leo Tolstoy than me. That dude could WRITE. But I digress. The point is, I think the time has come to give my fingers a rest.} {All manner of exotic beasts can be seen along the trail. Two magnificent jaguars lazed in the branches of a tree. The last time I saw two Jags up a tree was after a party in London's St. John's Wood district. But I digress. There were porcupines, otters, monkeys, a walk-through aviary, black leopards, and the only ring-tailed lemur in the country!}

Die progressive form findet man seltener:

{I call this tactic "vaca louca." (The term comes from mad cow disease, though it could also refer to a Brazilian song called "Levada louca" ("crazy rhythm") by Ivete Sangalo, which most of us originally misheard as "A vaca louca" – but I'm digressing here).} {The unassuming 77-year-old prime minister must have realized that Obamaland was no country for old men. That's why he seemed a bit nervous and unsteady as he walked with

Obama to a brief welcome ceremony in the East Room of the White House, where the habitually overenthusiastic Indian guests startled the unsuspecting president by unnecessarily applauding at even the slightest compliment he paid to India. But I'm digressing.}

1.1.4. There is a flower whose name for the moment **escapes** me. The actor's name escapes me for the moment. Even the name of the house we lived in there escapes me. There were three of us: me, Lorenzo Marioni, and a leather-jacketed man whose name now escapes me. Then they gained some early fans while touring Germany, just like a Scouse [= from Liverpool] band whose name escapes me for the moment, back in the 1960s. His first name escapes me. The name of the guest at a Sunday lunch that Bernard Ingham thought best kept secret escapes me. In the end, it may be that all we can salvage from this smoking mess is a lesson or two – although what they might be escapes me at the moment. {My Lords, does the Minister agree that, without wanting to spread scare stories, uncertainty in the professions in this country is so widespread that the only two professions with any certainty at the present time are undertakers and Members of your Lordships' House? The connection for the moment escapes me.} (Lord Ewing of Kirkford, Hansard)

Die progressive form findet man seltener:

Jim Wallis just produced a new book; the title is escaping me, but it's about how white people can have that conversation about race that they need to have. It's probably an easy fix but the solution is escaping me at the moment. The name of that band is escaping me at the moment.

1.1.5. {"What did she send?" – "I **forget**; I think it was a calendar."} (Saki) I forget what happened in the story, but there was one line that I shall always remember. (Saki) I forget her name, but I know it's a particularly famous one. (E. Waugh) I forget the derivation of Boxing Day, but the feeling of wanting to invite your loved ones outside one at a time and punch them in the face, does that come into it somewhere? (Allison Pearson) I forget who told me about it. I forget the name of the first disease I looked at, but before I had got half the way through the list of your symptoms, I knew I had it. I met him once but I forget when. I forget the French word for "ankle". I forget most of the words, but I can still feel the letter's meaning. I forget now the advice I gave.

Auch die progressive form is möglich:

I'm forgetting what he sounded like. Something went wrong – I don't really know what, but I'm forgetting about it now. There were Thom Jones, Sam Lipsyte, Ben Marcus, Magnus Mills, Steven Millhauser, David Mitchell, Lorrie Moore, Charles Portis, Padgett Powell, Mark Richard, and lots more that I'm forgetting. I also love people who make clothes for mass consumption but do it well and cleverly, like the head designer for J. Crew (whose name I'm forgetting this minute).

1.1.6. {At just that time another fabric was beginning to transform the world. **I refer to** cotton.} Dear Editor, I refer to the letter from Miss Jane Chan, "Liability cap is good news, but make it simpler to report card loss" (ST Forum, 8 September 2009). {To the Letters Editor, The Times. Dear Editor, I refer to the letter from Joshua Wong which you published on 3 July: "China and the new Hong Kong security law".} {In the past two decades two major American writers have been rediscovered and established securely in their rightful places in literary history. I refer to Emily Dickinson and Herman Melville. I am proposing the establishment of a third.} (Ivor Winters) {But there is another separation that never has existed in this country, nor likely ever will, even though it involves a force as powerful as religion and more influential in determining how we govern ourselves. I refer to money mixing in with politics.}

Auch die progressive form ist möglich:

{Finally, to take another example from current headlines, there is a silent conflict waged every day against the United States, an unprecedented program of state-sponsored cyberattacks against defense, civilian and corporate networks. Yes, I'm referring to the People's Republic of China.} {Yet, advanced as it is, there are fundamental shortcomings that will prevent it from completely supplanting the interfaces we've grown up with. The technology I'm referring to is, of course, a touchscreen.} {I'm not referring to risk in businesses they fund; every venture business has meaningful risk offset by the opportunity for outrageous return. I'm referring to personal risk, risk to their career.}

1.2. Immer wieder findet man Sätze in der simple form, wo man eher die progressive form erwarten würde:

As I get older, I realize that I have no wish whatsoever to leave Singapore. – *Freilich ist "as I'm getting older" auch nicht falsch, aber bei Google (May 2025) erzielt "as I get older" unvergleichlich mehr Treffer als "as I'm getting older".*

{As he waits, the others show their nervous tension. Birling wipes his brow, Sheila shivers, Eric clasps and unclasps his hand.} May I smoke as I talk? (C. Doyle) As they wait, many are growing bitter. As I sit here writing this letter a helicopter flies over the house. As he drives, he points out the monuments of Berlin's tumultuous history. As this book goes to print, I'm still a bit uncomfortable with the idea of publishing my life story. The number of older people is growing as young people leave. As the dangers of global warming hang ominously over the planet, two of the most powerful countries, the United States and China, are pursuing strategies defined mainly by economic and national security concerns. {"It is too easy," he said. "Even now, as we stalk the prey, I am filled with misgivings."}

He is too proud to ask relatives for help **while** he searches for a new job. They may be watching us now while we talk. An old woman admires the baby while Arthur looks at the men's magazines. That night Yasmin gives Tavito the letter and closes her eyes while he reads it.

The cab **still** waits, and there are two inspectors downstairs. (C. Doyle) Meanwhile, the world still waits for a cure. An enormous backlog of interpreters still waits to receive an answer.

He wastes too much money and he is wasting his life, too. *(Beide Formen sind nachvollziehbar: zuerst allgemeine Aussage, dann emotionaler Kommentar – interessant ist, dass beide in einem Satz mit demselben Verb vorkommen.)*

Creep forward quietly and see what they are doing – but for heaven's sake don't let them know that they are watched. (C. Doyle) – *Erwarten würde man wohl eher "don't let them know that they are being watched".*

{"Well?" I asked. – "We progress, my dear Watson, we progress. I had seven different schemes for getting a glimpse of that telegram, but I could hardly hope to succeed the very first time."} (C. Doyle) – *Erwarten würde man wohl eher "We are progressing".*

{"Good morning, Colonel," said he. "I hope I don't intrude, but we hear that Mr Holmes of Baker Street is here."} (C. Doyle) {Mrs. Hardman entered the room. "I hope I don't intrude upon you, sir, but I was so very anxious to know if the tea was just as you like it, sir."} – *Häufiger kommt jedenfalls die progressive form vor: I hope I'm not intruding, but I wanted to ask if you had a moment to discuss the project.*

{"You are engaged," said I; "perhaps I interrupt you." – "Not at all. I am glad to have a friend with whom I can discuss my results."} (C. Doyle) I hope I don't interrupt your discussion, don't know if it's the right time to give my two cents. Sorry Richard, I hope I don't interrupt anything serious. – *Zu erwarten wäre wohl eher "I'm (not) interrupting", aber bei Google sind "I hope I don't interrupt" und "I hope I'm not interrupting" ziemlich gleichwertig.*

"This grows serious!" Sherlock Holmes observed as we drove to Scotland Yard. (C. Doyle) – *Erwarten würde man wohl eher "This is growing serious!"*

He enters Exam Room Five, where Alma Lopez, 51, waits to see the only doctor in town. – *Erwarten würde man wohl eher "is waiting".*

1.3. Progressive form anstatt simple form:

1.3.1. Die present progressive form drückt aus, was "jetzt gerade" geschieht, aber dieses "jetzt gerade" ist ein sehr weit zu interpretierender Begriff, der öfters mit der Regel konkurrenziert, wonach allgemeine Aussagen in der present simple form stehen.

In Schulbüchern wird die present progressive tense gerne mit Beispielen wie diesen illustriert: I'm afraid she can't come to the phone now, she is playing tennis. I don't know what you are talking about. What are you

doing here? *Man könnte daraus den Eindruck gewinnen, dass "jetzt gerade" ein relativ kurzer Zeitraum ist. **Tatsächlich kann es bei der progressive form aber auch um Jahre gehen:***

The Peruvian glaciers are receding rapidly. Long-term use of anti-depressants is surging in the United States. Now eighty-four, he is still going strong. He is now serving a nine-year sentence. Living alone is becoming more and more common. Temperatures are rising rapidly during the growing season in some of the most important agricultural countries. Companies from Europe, the United States and, more recently, Asia, are being drawn into the Lake Geneva region by low taxes. Most single Japanese are increasingly making ends meet by working second or even third jobs. We are exhausting the ability of our home planet to support us all. Abroad, China is building military installations on disputed Pacific reefs. In the U.S., 80% of people ages 65 and older are now living in metropolitan areas. Women are getting married and having children later than ever. Increasingly, citizens of all ages are rejecting conventions and structures like parties and trade unions. At 36, Roger Federer is still winning Grand Slams with a combination of grace and grit. In China, more and more young people are choosing to do what they want. The U.S. is already feeling the effects of global warming. By kindergarten, children are already learning that the world will only indulge them so much. The kind of marriage you have isn't helping your children. Nike, which has more than 700 factories in 49 countries, finds that extreme weather is disrupting its supply chain. Social media is increasingly becoming part of our daily lives. Pakistan's government says the energy crisis is costing the economy up to 5% of GDP [= *gross domestic product* = *Bruttoinlandsprodukt*] a year. He says that Buddhism is under siege by Muslims, who are having more children than Buddhists. The border between politics and entertainment is dissolving in the 21st century. Everyone knows we are all living longer: in 1880, only about 160,000 in every million made it to 75; now it's more than 600,000. Global warming is reducing the Arctic ice pack.

1.3.2. *In manchen Sätzen wirkt die present progressive **dynamischer bzw. emotionaler** als die simple form, die Aktivität bzw. das Geschehen steht für den Sprecher im Vordergrund, manchmal auch der Umstand, dass etwas als **ungewöhnlich oder überraschend** empfunden wird. Möglich wäre in den folgenden Beispielen jeweils auch die simple form – das wären dann neutrale Aussagen ohne dynamische "Färbung":*

{People are not fools: it's almost certainly true that anyone taking a trip in a car is benefiting from driving. But they are doing so at the expense of everyone else around them – the other drivers stuck in traffic, the parents who dare not let their children walk to school, the pedestrians who risk their lives dashing across the street ...} All of our friends are Photoshopping their own photos – it's hard to escape that need to be perfect. {We are treating 35 million people every year. Over half of these are now for river blindness.} (Jimmy Carter) A body that's not sleeping enough looks similar to one that is stressed out. {Around 2006, commercial beekeepers began noticing something disturbing: their honeybees were disappearing. Beekeepers would open their hives and find them full of honeycomb, wax, even honey – but devoid of actual bees. [...] Seven years later, honeybees are still dying on a scale rarely seen before, and the reasons remain mysterious.} Our diet is indeed killing many of us. Patients often feel like they are getting better care if doctors are ordering fancy tests. When I'm with Chris I'm laughing and smiling. While it may seem as if kids are just exercising their bodies when they are running around, they may actually be exercising their brains as well. {For my part, I'm still having my regular summer morning swim here at Henley Beach. After the swim I drink coffee at Joe's kiosk on the esplanade here.} (*Dem Sprecher ist das Schwimmen wichtig – das Kaffeetrinken steht dagegen in der simple form.*) In the stock market everybody is seeking to discover what others are doing. Usually bald eagles are roosting on the uppermost branch of the tallest tree in the area. I'm still ruining vacations by taking work with me, trying to get stuff done. Why are so many people still eating meat? When a state government requires its citizens to buy car insurance, it does so because it figures that people are underestimating the odds of an accident. Are kids eating too much sugar? We may never be rich, but we are living in this fantastic place, eating beautiful food and meeting interesting people who pass through. There's more reason to be hopeful: animal organs and artificial hearts are helping to treat waitlist patients, while other new technologies can revive some hearts that had stopped beating for an extended time. Thirteen years later, they are still finding dead bodies there. When people choose a particular job, how much are psychological factors affecting that choice? By the time they are two months old, most babies are looking their parents in the eye and smiling at them. By the middle of the second year, a toddler is glancing at his mother to see what she's looking at when she tells him a word. {Ann

Landers cited the so-called sexual revolution as the root of many of the problems. “Women are reading in COSMOPOLITAN that if they don’t have five orgasms at night they are undersexed or freaks.”} Time flies when you are having fun. Take your hat off when you are speaking to a lady. By the end of the century, Nigeria could surpass China in population: across sub-Saharan Africa, families are still having four or five children. Jealousy is one of the few honourable emotions we have, and anyone who claims not to be jealous is either lying or severely brain-damaged. When a stupid man is doing something he is ashamed of, he always declares that it is his duty. (G. B. Shaw)

In den nächsten drei Beispielen geht es um eine Gewohnheit, und das “jetzt gerade“ ist mehr als der Augenblick des Gesprächs. Trotzdem steht die progressive form, weil es um ein emotionales Thema geht – was könnte emotionaler sein als Geschlechtsverkehr?

“So,” Grandma Brannigan said, “are you sleeping with my granddaughter?” Are you sleeping with that guy? I know you aren’t sleeping with the guy you’ve been dating for the past four months.

1.3.3. Ein weiterer Grund für die Verwendung der present progressive form kann sein, dass eine **Abweichung von der Norm** ausgedrückt werden soll. (Einige Beispiele von 1.3.2. und 1.3.3. überschneiden sich diesbezüglich):

She says she’s barely sleeping these days. He is no longer taking anti-depressants. I’m not working today. Approximately 1,000 homicides a year are committed nationwide by seriously mentally ill individuals who are not taking their medication. Cucumbers are getting a good price this year. On any given night, an unusually high percentage of young people here are drinking alcohol until they vomit. Statistics have been telling us that humans are living longer because of advances in medicine and health care. In these economically challenging times, many people aren't getting paid because they've lost their jobs. American girls are now smoking, drinking and using drugs as often as boys their age. People are marrying later now and have fewer children. {The change is not always a benign one. On the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, Mayan women who as infants had been fed in the traditional way – on milk from their mothers’ breasts – are now feeding their own infants on formula [= *Babymilchpulver*] from a bottle.} Before, we would sit together at home and eat dinner, but now everyone is watching television. I was horrified to find the other week that my second son is taking drugs – my best ones, too. (Bob Monkhouse) You’ve got rings round your eyes and I know you’re not sleeping. You’re drinking rather a lot these days, aren’t you, Peter? (E. Waugh) Now, hunger is killing children at an alarming rate in Venezuela. The economy is now more stable, and Mexicans are living longer. Now more people are dying from diabetes and heart disease. Nowadays girls are growing up far more quickly than they used to. Fifty years ago, people would have had a list of things women couldn’t do that was as long as your arm, and they’re doing every single one of them today.

Auch in den folgenden Beispielen finden wir eine Abweichung von der Norm:

She **is not speaking to** her mother, so all she has is two girlfriends. The Daily Maverick attempted to contact the pair for comment, but Emilie Lelouche did not answer her cellphone, and has told other media that she is not speaking to anyone about the issue. Wright said she is not speaking to some family members who don't agree with her decision. “My mum is furious with me,” she says, “and my son isn't speaking to me.” It was like waking up with someone you're not speaking to. It's not easy to live under the same roof with people you are not speaking to, even when it is a roof that covers 80 rooms on three floors. The two parties aren't speaking to one another. "I'm not speaking to you, you know," he said. Is your wife speaking to you now that she has found out about the girl? {My nephew isn't speaking to his sister now. It's a mess.} Pandora is back in Oxford, but not speaking to me much. (Sue Townsend)

Verwandt damit ist die Kontrastierung von zwei Handlungen in Sätzen mit “when ... not”; im Deutschen bietet sich das Wort “gerade“ zur Verdeutlichung an:

He’s retired now, but you can still find him working for a local veterinarian **when he is not** tending to things on his small ranch. When she is not working, she takes weekend trips outside of the city. When they are not eating, rats are likely to be having sex. When you’re not getting enough oxygen, carbon dioxide can build up in the brain. When I’m not working or studying, I sleep. In Britain, when you are not making tea, you are probable

thinking about making tea. When he is not receiving visits, he spends his time in meditation. When he isn't writing, he draws. When he isn't playing he fidgets. He is a master at distracting your attention, and then at the moment when you are not concentrating, he quickly hides the object he is after.

Ähnlich: Quality means doing it right when no one is looking. (H. Ford)

Auch in den nächsten Beispielen ist ein im Deutschen hier mögliches "gerade" ein Indikator für die progressive form:

Even when I'm travelling I stay in contact with my children. He can talk and smile simultaneously – and sometimes, oddly, when he is frowning he is also smiling. Life is what happens while you're answering e-mail. Sometimes I eat so fast I don't even know what I'm eating. He moves fast when he is working, rushing from one patient room to the next.

Im nächsten Beispiel passt zwar das deutsche "gerade" nicht, gemeint ist aber eine spezifische Situation, in der etwas stattfindet:

Women like silent men – they think they are listening. A person "not mincing his / her words" is not making any effort to soften their impact.

1.3.4. Im Gebrauch der englischen Zeiten gibt es eine Generalregel (d.h. für alle tenses), wonach bestimmte Verben nicht in der progressive form stehen (nachzulesen in allen Grammatiken; auf eine Aufzählung wird hier verzichtet, weil die Grammatiken unterschiedliche Einteilungen anbieten). In der Folge werden Beispiele angeführt, die von der "Norm" abweichen. Ein typisches Beispiel ist "to see" als Vertreter der "verbs of perception":

{Now he's looking at me. He's actually turning round and talking, all while driving. He's no longer seeing the road.} We are seeing bright flashes going all over the sky. At this moment he is probably seeing quite as well as he did before. One by one ask children to describe the object that they are seeing to the others, describe its shape, colours and size, try and give as much detail as possible.

In diesen vier Beispielen geht es tatsächlich um das rein optische Sehen, für welches nach der klassischen Grammatik nur die simple form zulässig wäre.

Wesentlich häufiger ist allerdings "to see" in der progressive form im Sinn von "wahrnehmen / feststellen / beobachten":

We are seeing some successes and see more people getting into care more quickly after they are diagnosed. What you are seeing now is really insidious. He said that doctors were even seeing extreme cases of malnutrition. They had to assume there were other intrusions they weren't seeing. Almost everywhere we look we are seeing mass loss of glaciers. The real problem we are seeing is significant cutbacks in federal grants. We are seeing no reports of widespread lay-offs. We are seeing much more growth in developing countries. We are seeing juries more reluctant to issue death sentences. We are seeing companies move production back to the US. We are seeing a new face of hunger. At first we saw really wealthy people move here, but now we are seeing a lot of middle-class people as we. Don't expect to be seeing the list any time soon. We are seeing an exponential rise in the number of children who have no mother and father because of Aids. History teaches us that victors have to be magnanimous, but what are we seeing here? Now you are seeing more and more competition in less developed countries. Now we are seeing the general expansion of housing cooperatives, particularly in the inner city areas of Liverpool. "It used to be mainly women, but we are seeing a lot more men now," said the plastic surgeon. Every year we are seeing an increase in the number of participants in the marathon. What we are seeing in the UK now is similar to what we saw in the early 90s in the US. What we are seeing is the dark side of tourism. What we are seeing now is China's return to its dominant position in Asia. What we are seeing are the results of an unregulated market system. They are not seeing the harmful effects of their message. It's very disturbing for a [hospital] patient to be lying in the hallway, but they are also seeing why the nurses are so busy.

Darüber hinaus gibt es auch andere Bedeutungen von "to see", welche die progressive form zulassen:

*** You are seeing far too much of that young lady. She discovers her husband is seeing a girl he used to tutor. My youngest daughter is seeing a young man she dated in high school who became a Marine and was over in Iraq until just recently.

*** He talks to them over the fence while he's seeing to the roses. Our staff are seeing to the final details of

decorating, wrapping presents and dining preparation, waiting to greet our guests. My wife is seeing to the paperwork.

Weitere Beispiele in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

The room **is costing** me less than ten dollars a day. The wedding, the arrangements, the presents and the invitations – it's all costing so much. (R. Pilcher) He never admitted to his wife how much his hobby was costing him. They are costing us a fortune. At least it isn't costing me anything. The dioxin scandal is costing Belgian poultry farmers an estimated \$ 350.000 a day in lost exports. Israel's Finance Ministry estimates that car thefts alone are costing the economy \$400 million a year. {Dear, Adrian, Thank you for your letter, which Lucy forwarded to me. As you can see from my address, I am living in London. I am renting a small room in Soho at the moment, but it is costing £110 per week, so I won't be here long.}

She covered her ears with her hands and said, "I'm **not hearing** you!" She keeps calling, and I keep seeing that he's not hearing her. "Imagine my surprise on a Saturday morning when I am hearing trumpets playing," she said. We are hearing bombing, night or day. They are hearing our footsteps. Finally, they realize they are hearing the same voice.

Dagegen "to hear" im Sinn von "etwas erzählt bekommen":

I can't believe what I'm hearing! I am hearing the same criticism now too. I am hearing that a number of HUGE deals are being worked on. I am hearing more and more of these stories from middle-class people. Already, I am hearing that sales have been affected somewhat in January. We are hearing a lot of complaints. Now we are hearing of bodies in the street.

How **are you liking** it? How are you liking working with her? Oprah's eyes widen: "I am liking that!" I am not liking the way this project is turning out. They are not liking it a lot, but slowly they are coming round to it. It could be that the markets are picking apart the jobs numbers, and, ever skeptical, are not liking what they see. I'm glad people are liking it. I think even the locals are liking the food. People are liking the caribou and venison recipes. And somehow people are actually liking it.

You **are looking** the picture of health. Dear me – you're looking rather pale. Coach Vance Joseph's job is looking quite a bit more secure these days. South Africa's first black leader, the late Nelson Mandela, once predicted that the ANC would remain in power until around 2025 - and this is looking quite likely. He is looking more centrist and moderate every day. The recession scenario is looking more and more credible. And the future is looking so much brighter. It is looking so good, it is hard to find flaws.

People **are loving** this stuff. The really crazy thing is that viewers are loving this stuff. She has finally found her true calling and is loving every minute of it. Hey, I'm loving what you are doing. Although Vinny and I both look a little pale, tired and distressed from the past 24 hours, I promise, we are loving every minute. If this is how you treat me, then I ain't loving you anymore. He is loving this moment.

"To mean" im Sinn von "bedeuten" kennt nur die simple form. "To mean" im Sinn von "beabsichtigen" lässt allerdings die progressive form zu:

I'm not **meaning** to imply that I consider a "thorough grounding" in the classics to be a bad thing. (Noel Coward) I am meaning to finish my essay before the end of the day. I am meaning to use the software for both personal and group projects. An "anchor song" is a song which encompasses the broad story the overall record is meaning to tell. This person really isn't meaning to do what they're doing. I don't want to necessarily discipline her because she isn't meaning to cause us harm, she's just a rough puppy!

We are coming into the target now and **it's still seeming** like a peacetime mission. To me, a vegetarian substitute is seeming more and more appealing. As for his proposal for an all-Earth, all-the-time satellite, that is seeming less far-fetched than when Mr. Gore first raised it in March 1998. With the Greek economy forecast to shrink by 6 percent this year and 3 percent next year, the ultimate goal of Greece's lowering debt to 120 percent of gross domestic product by 2020 is seeming more and more unrealistic. Merging human interaction with AI is seeming to be more and more likely the solution for managing customers needs. With the storm, things are seeming more at risk than they were a couple weeks ago.

How **is he wanting** to pay for this? {What does God have in store for me? What doors is he wanting me to go through?} They are wanting me to sign a contract, but I'd like to hear from others before I sign up. Japanese industry is concerned that younger executives are wanting to spend more time at home with their children. I am not wanting to show my hand yet because I am still mulling over everything. That doesn't mean that the SNP isn't wanting to whip up nationalist fervour. We should look at some of the reasons why, you know, more and more people aren't wanting to start a business. More often than not, you aren't wanting to leave the comfort of your apartment, restaurant, or club just to sit on a bench, or in a seedy train station.

Ähnlich: Would you be wanting to see your room now?

Eine andere Bedeutung von "to want" ist "to be in need of" – da ist die progressive form keine Überraschung: Parents are often wanting strategies to stay connected with their emotionally distant teenager. I will be able to offer you a free initial consultation so you can meet me and find out a bit about how I work and I can find out what you are wanting help with. These communities of mostly Black residents aren't wanting for jobs and support for business ownership.

1.3.5. Die present simple tense (und die simple form generell) ist für allgemeine Aussagen (und **Wiederholungen** bzw. Gewohnheiten) zuständig. In den drei folgenden Beispielen steht **"often"**, was in diese Richtung weist. Trotzdem wird hier die progressive form angewendet – man hat hier weniger eine statistische Aussage im Blick hat als eine bestimmte Situation:

A key problem is that local officials are **often** working with the drug cartels. More Italians stay longer in school, and when they get out, they are often looking at prolonged periods of unemployment. Parents are often wanting (= needing) strategies to stay connected with their emotionally distant teenager. "These people are often working in dire situations," he said. What American publishers are often looking for is authentic-sounding voices, not authentic voices. Room 331, their cramped classroom, features a collection of aging computers and a radio that is often playing classical music. A co-worker who does this every day is often creating a hostile or demeaning work environment.

Ähnlich: I realised that it didn't matter what I did in my life, because nobody was watching me. – Hier steht zwar die past tense, aber eigentlich ist es eine present tense, die nur durch die Zeitenfolge transformiert worden ist. Der Satz klingt wie eine allgemeine Aussage, eine generelle Wahrheit, aber der Fokus liegt nicht auf einer gewonnenen Erkenntnis, sondern auf der Konzentration auf bestimmte einzelne Ereignisse: Was immer ich tue, niemand sieht mir in dieser Situation zu.

Es gibt noch viele weitere Beispiele für wiederholte Handlungen in der progressive form:

John is **usually** sitting in the kitchen at that time, but I couldn't find him. Students are usually studying late at night before exams. The software is usually updating in the background without the user noticing. When people say "it runs in the family" they are usually talking about something genetic or their good looks. As parents are usually working, they haven't time to teach children about cooking, and it's a wilderness. These scammers are using computer software to disguise their phone numbers and *are usually calling* from outside of the country.

When I'm feeling ill, my dog puts his head on my lap. {Much of what I learned from my trainer is still relevant today. When I'm watching [football] games, situations arise on the pitch that often make me think of some of the things he used to tell us.} When I'm working, that's when I'm focused. He also strongly advises me not to implement any of the strategies on the days when my wife is restricting her daily calorie intake to 500. I often feel like a piker [= Memme] when my wife is describing our emotional terrain. In the morning when the boys are getting ready for the day, Ms. Thompson said, she insists they not roll their little cars down the hallway, or run before 8 a.m. When Rose is lip-reading, she is guessing most of the time.

Whenever I am talking to someone who is not Korean, I am communicating interculturality. Whenever I am wearing a dress or a headpiece it's all been locally made. I'm quite a running geek, so whenever I am running I'm thinking about running. It helps to make eye contact whenever someone is speaking to you directly to show that you are paying attention. {Listening is an extremely important and an understated skill to have; not only for you to succeed in your professional life but also for your mental peace. For instance, whenever your Boss is

talking to you about all the things that you have done wrong, listening to good music can be very useful for your well-being.} To make marriages work successfully, we need prayer, so whenever your husband is beginning to irritate you, go in your room and pray to God that He might give you strength. Whenever I see him he is quarrelling with somebody.

The crop has been bad this year, but at least I am no longer borrowing money **each week**. "Each week students are making moves as you make moves on a chess board," he says. Yet with each week, they are learning facts about urban life, and their other neighbors, that should concern them. Each week, households are taking a full two hours to watch 60 minutes of True Detective, because every scene needs to be rewound and watched again. Each week we are looking at two shops competing in the same sector and reviewing what they are offering customers: from how helpful the staff are, to the best bargains currently on offer. Each week, VICE is spotlighting a different female net artist.

{My nerves are wrecked. I'm taking tranquilizers **every day**.} McLean is an active investor who is monitoring the market daily. She is still having nightmares every night. Viruses, worms and Trojan horses, the malware zoo is growing every day. Every day, we are getting stronger. Every day we are arresting suspects wherever we find them.

Weitere Beispiele für Wiederholungen in der progressive form:

That's the time when most people are watching television.

Each cell has a vestibule where the inmate is shackled, hands behind his back, when he is being taken elsewhere in the prison.

There, in fine weather, from 12 to 2, five days a week, all summer, outdoor concerts are being given by the Music Division of the Public Library.

She is still having nightmares every night.

Ungeachtet all dieser Beispiele wollen wir nicht vergessen, dass Wiederholungen bzw. Gewohnheiten im Normalfall in der simple form stehen: {In retirement, Mr. Rasmussen has remained active. He swims, bikes and plays the violin and the viola in quartets and an orchestra.}

1.3.6. Gewöhnungsbedürftig für Deutschsprachige ist besonders die progressive form in Passivsätzen, deshalb hier einige Beispiele für deren – regelgerechten – Gebrauch:

Why are those sheep being driven out of that field?

Do you feel enough is being done?

We are being inundated every day with computational findings, conclusions and statistics.

A sequel is being discussed.

Nobody is being held accountable.

Progress is being made.

{The body responsible for the day-to-day running of the health service in England is being scrapped. The government plans to abolish NHS England and bring it into the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) in a radical overhaul of the management structure of the NHS.}

What is being done to help them?

Now that investment, like much else in these straitened times, is being cut back.

The material that is being used to resurface the roads consists of 50 per cent recycled hard plastics plus recycled asphalt products and slag aggregates.

1.4. Present tense for general statements

Öfters findet man eine present tense, wo nach den Regeln der Zeitenfolge ("sequence of tenses") eine andere tense (meistens eine past tense) zu erwarten wäre. Diese Gepflogenheit der englischen Sprache – present tense immer dann, wenn es sich um allgemein gültige oder jedenfalls auch noch in der Gegenwart gültige Sachverhalte handelt – hat sie mit der deutschen Sprache gemeinsam und fällt daher nicht weiter auf:

When his son grew up he went into the hairdressing business, but for ladies, because it **pays** better. (S. Maugham)

He had always been fascinated by the scene in Snow White in which the Wicked Queen **dips** an apple into a poisonous brew.

{An instant later I heard him running down, and he burst into my consulting room like a man who **is** mad with panic. "Who has been in my room?" he cried.} (C. Doyle)

I was horrified to find the other week that my second son **is** taking drugs – my best ones, too. (Bob Monkhouse)

{He's such a brilliant talker, too. But we all know from whom he inherits that. Lord Allendale was saying to me only yesterday, in the park, that Mr Graham **talks** almost as well as his aunt.} (O. Wilde)

Francis Bacon asserted that all true knowledge **derives** from observation and experiment.

Granny told me that the souls of the buried **are** still lurking around.

Michael L., a landscape designer who has built 35 natural pools in southern England since 2001 and wrote a book on the subject, "Natural Swimming Pools", said a natural pool **must** blend into its surroundings.

Whoever said that the early bird **catches** the worm was right.

1.5. Present tense instead of present perfect tense

In den folgenden Sätzen stehen verschiedene (unterstrichene) "time markers", die "eigentlich" eine present perfect tense nach sich ziehen sollten – jedenfalls nach den Regeln des Schul-Englisch. Trotzdem werden sie hier mit der present tense kombiniert:

For much of the past four years, Paolo Borrometi, a reporter who covers the mafia, **starts** each morning with an espresso, a cigarette – and his police escort.

The Dow Jones industrial average **is** up nearly 800 points in the past three weeks. (Time)

Luca is a good friend of my buddy Patrick, whom I **know** from my college days.

Crime **is** up 50 per cent in the five years during which the Latino community has grown from 5 to 30 per cent.

We **are** only married two years. (O. Wilde) He **'s** only married a week.

I'm in my job only a week when my boss informs me that I have to attend an editorial conference in Portugal.

"Says I, But Joe, **you're** ten years dead ... " (Joan Baez: Joe Hill)

You **know** each other from a long way back, don't you?

Chet Hanks, Tom Hanks' son, who **is** now three years sober, said his parents have supported him "through thick and thin."

2. Bemerkungen zur past tense

2.1. Wir beginnen mit dem Thema past tense simple and progressive:

Einleitend einige Beispiele, wie man sie in der Schule lernt: Die past tense progressive steht für eine Handlung, die zu einem bestimmten Zeitpunkt gerade "im Laufen" ist:

Somehow she tripped when she was doing the hovering and fell down the stairs. While I was riding on the bus I thought about the crazy thing that had happened. Of the 28 people killed by lightning in the US in 2012, 13 were standing under or near trees. The last time anyone saw her alive, she was gathering firewood. She looked around to see if anyone was watching. My math teacher took away my phone when I was texting in class. All the time that she was telling me this story she never once looked in my direction. (C. Doyle) You say that these people came out from the flat while you were waiting downstairs. (C. Doyle) I was shaving at my window in the morning when I heard the rattle of hoofs. (C. Doyle) I thanked him profusely, but he was not listening. Why did you get angry last night when we were talking about Mrs Wood? I saw your mother in the market, I think she was looking for you. Being a psychiatrist, I realized the hyperventilating man was having a panic attack. When it was getting dark and he hadn't come home, I began to wonder where he was. By this time, I was fairly hopping about with excitement. When I returned to consciousness I found that my wound was still bleeding.

I was losing a lot of blood, and for a time I thought that I would die. My heart was beating loudly as I rang the bell. She came to see me while I was having breakfast. I crept to the window and peered out; snow was blowing wildly and the wind howled. Although it was getting dark I went out again. {I found my niece alone in the room. She was re-adjusting her hair and singing a song to herself.} The call came from Venice and she knew immediately who was speaking. When I looked back, they were still watching me. {I bent over the man. He was unconscious and his head was bleeding.} He didn't bother to see whether he was being followed. We couldn't see what he was doing. His face turned white as he was reading the paper over breakfast. A woman who was passing laughed. It was a Sunday morning and I was enjoying an extra hour in bed when I was awakened by a strange noise. They wanted to know what was being done to help the flood victims. It was a scene that I witnessed at the British Consulate in Geneva while I was waiting to renew my passport. Everywhere I looked people were kissing each other. People went out on to the beach to see what was happening. One day my sister came in as I was being bathed. Pandora smiled at me today, but I couldn't smile back because I was eating a sandwich. I gave my food to the dog when my mother wasn't looking. Mr Carstairs was cross with me in the history lesson because I wasn't concentrating. Mr Scruton stopped me as I was walking along the corridor at school and asked me why I was wearing red socks. The TITANIC struck the iceberg while it was still moving forward. When I saw how many people were waiting, I wanted to go home. I had to make sure you weren't wearing a wig. When I arrived at the office, Duncan was waiting for me. I didn't understand what was happening. When we arrived at Oldacre's house, Lestrade was waiting for us. (C. Doyle) We went down to the room where the policemen were keeping Jonas Oldacre. (C. Doyle) They looked at Millie, who was still crying. He heard a shout from behind him; a man was running toward a car. It wasn't snowing when I started back after lunch. When I met him he was wearing plastic boots. I was standing in front of our house talking to John when suddenly we saw a shooting star. When I came home, the puppy was whining and yelping in the kitchen. I didn't know what he was talking about. There was no doubt that the eye was watching her. He knew at once what she was thinking. He remembered her nineteenth birthday, three weeks before; she was getting ready to fly to Switzerland. A moment later he saw Susie; she was wearing her long evening dress. We were just hiding the raft when two men came running out of the bushes. I sensed that there was something he wasn't telling me. One woman whose husband was having an affair with a colleague in his office threatened to leave him. When I reached the injured man he was being tenderly comforted by his wife. He didn't come back till dinner was actually being put on the table. When I returned, my friend was standing by the fireplace lighting up his pipe. They met in Paris in 1962, where he was studying theology and philosophy at the Institut Catholique.

Im nächsten Beispiel gibt es einen Perspektiven-Wechsel von einer past progressive zur nächsten:

I was sitting with my kids having dinner and suddenly the building was dancing in the air.

In diesem Fall ist zuerst "was sitting" der Hintergrund zu einem neu eintretenden Ereignis. Dieses steht aber nicht, wie sonst meistens, in der past tense simple, sondern wiederum in der progressive form, denn plötzlich gibt es einen neuen Fokus, das Erdbeben, und die dramatische Konzentration darauf erzeugt einen neuen Blickwinkel: "was dancing".

Die Handlung in der progressive form kann ganz kurz sein – nur Sekunden:

{In 1980, Julie Barlow, an anthropology student at the University of Chicago, was stepping out of a phone booth one evening when a man approached her displaying himself and asking, "What do you think of that then?" "It looks like a cock to me," she said, "only smaller".} *Es geht sogar noch kürzer:* In my thirty-four years on earth I have never not slapped at a mosquito when it was biting me. He was leaving the room, but I held his arm. (C. Doyle)

Die Handlung in der progressive form kann sich aber auch über einen längeren Zeitraum erstrecken:

We went through a dodgy [= zweifelhaft, unbeständig] spell of games when we weren't winning, but our fans stuck by us. He was in third grade when he learned that nearly a quarter of the kids in his Austin school weren't getting enough to eat at home. A fight broke out in front of the only grocer in town that was still selling anything. They wanted us to see a neighbour of theirs who was selling his house. I made some decisions while I was lying in the hospital. The state shut off power because customers weren't paying their bills. When I was growing up, my family lived in Mississippi. I was riding horses from the time I could walk. I wasn't going to my friends' birthday parties or able to plan anything the whole time I was there. I was reading a lot of books, and I

had no one to discuss them with. There was very little work to be had anywhere, and some families were literally starving. (R. Dahl) I have never lived a life in which I was not taking care of children. He told me that the single best year of his marriage was when he was living in New York. His wife was living in Boston, and they met only on weekends. There was no way I was going to tell my parents that I was having sex. {We had to put a stop to the presentation of debutantes at Court. Every tart in London was getting in.} (Princess Margaret) Monica knew her boyfriend was dating other women. She knew all the time that he was only pretending.

Weitere Beispiele weiter unten im Abschnitt „Past tense progressive kombiniert mit Zeitangaben“.

*Die progressive form steht auch dann, wenn **Anfang und Ende definiert** sind – statt eines bestimmten Zeitpunktes gilt also ein definierte Zeitstrecke:*

Little seems to be known of the elusive Arthur Whitaker (1882 - ?) other than that he was an architect and was writing between the years 1892 and 1910, with a brief reappearance in 1941. All day long the boy was singing, whistling, yelling, whooping, laughing – it was maddening, devastating, unendurable. (Mark Twain) All the way from Braine to Sermoise I was thinking of what my mother would say when she saw it. {Naughty? That little three-year-old girl who was sitting silently in the hot sun for four straight hours, without complaint or snack or toy?} I was coughing all morning. "My phone was buzzing all morning," he said. He said that people were calling "all morning as far as from New York".

*Zwei oder mehrere **parallele Handlungen** / Vorgänge können beide / alle in der progressive form stehen:*

{“He didn’t go out, for instance, somewhere about eight to eight thirty?” – “Oh, no,” Mrs Bartlett laughed. “He was fixing the kitchen dresser for me nearly all the evening and I was helping him.”} (A. Christie)

Holmes was exercising the good old gray matter over a letter that had just come, while I was relaxing gently in an armchair. {I started to cry. It was as though a tremendous weight had been lifted. Then we were both laughing and crying. That was a moment of truth, and I never looked back.} {She found herself packing chocolates and scrubbing pots. If she wasn’t doing that, she was sweeping floors, wrapping gifts, answering telephones or shipping orders.} I was still having to work while I was studying to pay for the visa. Athos was fighting well, but his wound was hurting him. Soon Huck was blowing out a cloud of smoke, and the other boys were wishing that they could do the same. (Mark Twain) {You know, this world is full of nutty people. Would you believe, that at five o’clock this morning, when I was driving through the park on my way to go fishing, there were people already waiting to play golf?} He was cute and super chill, but I was dating a football player and he was seeing a girl on the volleyball team.

Das gilt auch für abwechselnde Handlungen: When it wasn’t snowing, it was raining. {And when I wasn’t feeling anger I was feeling despair. I was helpless to do anything.}

Häufig steht bei zwei (oder mehreren) parallelen Handlungen nur eine in der progressive form:

A police helicopter hovered overhead and car horns were blaring. An older farmer was sitting at a nearby table and apparently overheard my conversation. {Dust hung in the air, thick and nearly motionless. Buildings were burning, people were running, there was lots of shouting.} When God made man she was only testing. Outside, the wind still screamed, and the rain was beating against the windows. His wife was cleaning their house, their small daughter and two sons played outside; suddenly he heard a distant purr. The children were staring at the policemen as they ate. In the twilight three figures were walking across the lawn towards the window; they all carried guns under their arms. I wonder what those architects were thinking when they designed those schools! While these efforts were being made to keep order in the city, the fires continued to grow. France continued its nuclear tests in the South Pacific in the 1960s even after it learned that the local population was being exposed to dangerous levels of radioactive fallout. From the way she spoke you might have thought the poor woman was having hysterics. A morning mist still hung over the water, but the sun was gradually buring it off.

Es gibt auch parallele Handlungen, wo beide / alle nur in der simple form stehen:

Everybody rushed out of their houses – women screamed and children cried – and I thought it prudent to go out too. (A. R. Wallace) The bright April sun broke through the clouds again, bees hummed and bright flies darted over shrinking pools of rainwater. The wind howled and lightning flashed and the waves were as high as houses. {It was a glorious morning in the spring, but as it was early, few persons were as yet astir. Birds twittered under the neighbouring eaves, and from the far end of the thoroughfare came faintly the droning cry

of an umbrella repairman.} While Tom sat eating, Aunt Polly asked questions. As she walked round the huge department store, Edith reflected how difficult it was to choose a suitable Christmas present for her father. While Charles drove slowly through the snowstorm, Geoffrey talked continually. While Joe cooked some meat, Tom and Huck went to the river and caught some fish. (Mark Twain) The other people remained standing while the two families walked to the front of the church and sat down. He gave notice of their departure to the department manager, and they packed while they waited for the call. I slept outside in the rain while Jim stayed awake to watch. I sat with him while he ate his dinner. While he ate, we talked. [The rain glistened darkly in the wet, it splashed steadily into the puddles and ran down the water-spouts into the street. The dim lamps flickered in the wind. A few people hurried past, bending beneath their dripping umbrellas. Then Harris, who was sitting next to the window, pulled back the curtains and looked out into the street.} (Jerome K. Jerome) She cried softly as she talked. He drank his beer slowly while he listened to his wife. I held the string while my father held the kite. She waited in the car while he went in. As darkness descended, the two snipers watched for movement behind the dyke. As the shadows crept slowly up the mountains, a slight breeze rocked the tops of the pine trees. (Bret Harte) While I read, my friend finished his work.

Im folgenden Beispiel handelt es sich um zwei ganz kurze parallele Handlungen – die progressive form würde hier nicht passen, weil es keine "progression" gibt: One of them struck the man a savage blow across the head while the other put his hand inside his jacket and pulled out the wallet.

Nach den Regeln der **Zeitenfolge** verwandelt sich eine past tense progressive in eine past perfect tense progressive:

This conversation had occurred while our cab had been treading its way through a long succession of dingy streets. (C. Doyle) We had reached our house in Baker Street while we had been talking. (C. Doyle) A cab had driven up whilst the American had been talking. (C. Doyle) They told Rip Van Winkle of the strange things that had happened while he had been sleeping. A few months previously she had been having trouble with her eyes. The detective picked up the trainers I'd been wearing the night before. He returned to the same spot where he had been standing before.

Häufig ist eine **past tense progressive mit einer Zeitangabe kombiniert**. Dabei muss man aber unterscheiden: {During the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the RAF's Harrier GR7s [= type of aircraft] played an important and valuable role. I know that because I was flying one of them.} – Bei "played a valuable role" will der Schreiber ein Urteil (= Faktum) ausdrücken und verwendet dafür die past simple, bei "was flying" geht es ihm um seine eigenen Erlebnisse und Handlungen.

In Extremfällen kann die Zeitangabe einen Zeitraum umfassen, der in die Jahrhunderte geht:

By the Second Millennium B.C. farmers were already tilling some of the heavier, less favourable soils. As far as 9.000 years ago, humans were carving likenesses of animals into rock. These materials were already being imported from abroad in protohistorical times.

Es folgen Beispiele für die past tense progressive kombiniert mit Zeitangaben:

By the early 2000s, he was spending much of his time in Beverley Hills. By the late 1960s, he was living with his mother in Arlington, Texas. By the 1960s, the average American was producing twice as much as only fifteen years before. By the early 1950s I was earning \$100,000 a year under contract. By 1860, the railway line from London was bringing 250,000 visitors to Brighton each year. By 1970, two-thirds of Catholic women in the USA were using birth control. By 1974 our marriage was falling apart and we were both having affairs. By Christmas 2018, he was working 18-hour days and barely covering his own costs.

By the twentieth century Britain was drinking five times as much tea as coffee. By the time of the [American] revolution, no glass was being made in the colonies. By the time the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the Aral Sea was already retreating. By the time I was sixteen we were arguing all the time. By the end of the week I was feeling much better. By the time he was twenty he was selling drugs to younger kids in his neighbourhood. By high school, he was regularly winning races in national competitions, and continued training after graduation. By the end of the week they were walking 20 kilometres a day. By the end of the month she was eating only one meal a day. By late summer, speculation was reaching a climax. By the time I was eight years old I was regularly going to the football ground by myself. By November of last year, the

romance was fading. By the time she entered a serious relationship in her late 30s, she was having grave doubts about bringing children into a troubled world.

In 1981, 44% of the world's population was living in extreme poverty. Back in 2010, the plant was losing money while producing 300,000 cars a year. By curious chance, a second man was also strangling women in Plauen in the mid-1980s. When the Pill got FDA [= Food and Drug Administration] approval in 1960, more than half a million women were already taking it. In November 1962, as he approached his thirty-first birthday, he was earning \$10,000 a year. It was hard to believe these [prison] cells were still being used in the 1980s. In 1987 TIME was devoting 11 of its cover stories to international news. This concert consisted of music composed in 1766, when the ten-year-old composer [= Mozart] was being rushed round Europe to give concerts with his sister Nannerl.

___ Anybody who can still do at sixty what he was doing at twenty wasn't doing very much at twenty. (Jimmy Carter). I didn't see running water till I was 17 – but everybody was living like that. Obama went to two Ivy League schools and was teaching law before he was 32. The Queen first stalked deer when she was 16, and she was crawling through the undergrowth in her mackintosh trousers until she was nearly 60. At fifty-three, his hair was turning prematurely grey. At 72, he was playing tennis a 7 a.m. every Tuesday. By 12 or 13, Monica was wearing adult makeup, neighbors say. At the age of 16, Larry was living in the South Bronx, New York. She was smoking cigarettes by the time she was thirteen. By the time she was 13, she was travelling to Poland and Slovenia for competitions. By the time he was thirty, he was earning more as a writer than as a banker.

At the time I was seeing a girl named Sadie. {At the time I was making \$29 a week. Pearl was talking about marriage, but I felt we had to wait until I was making at least \$35.} At the time I was growing rapidly and was strong for my age. The thieves knew that the video surveillance system wasn't working at the time. At that time, we were both drinking.

___ By that time I was no longer living at Georgetown Villas. By that time Hilda was walking again. By that time, she was serving a sentence in the gulag. But by that time, Smith was entering a new phase. By that time, Soviet units were already advancing through Demmin.

Another boat was having to be unloaded at the same time. At the same time, we were also working on the Red Line Braintree Branch modernizing the signal system. At the same time, only 28.7 million people were accessing antiretroviral therapy (ART) in 2021 (that is less than 75%). At the same time, they were putting pressure on known members. . Mrs. Gray's children were laughing and talking all at the same time.

___ Soon, he was visiting the fortune teller three times a week. Following this strategy, we began to monitor elections in Latin America and soon we were being asked to work in other countries around the world. (Jimmy Carter) {Mrs. Smith went into the noisy house. Mrs. Gray's children were laughing and talking all at the same time. Soon she was laughing and singing with the rest of them.} Able to speak Serbo-Croat fluently, he was soon being treated like a long-lost brother.

They were still picking cotton by hand just as when I had last worked on a farm, thirty years earlier. (Jimmy Carter) People were still sleeping when I came in. Authorities were still investigating and refused to comment. He was still breathing, although heavily. The building was still standing when I last saw it.

My mother had always watched British soaps, like Coronation Street or EastEnders, but suddenly, she was watching these Nigerian videos all day. Suddenly the temperature was dropping fast. Suddenly the momentum was shifting again. Suddenly, the crowd was paying closer attention.

I was now getting seven dollars a week. The mosque was now overflowing. Garth was now singing "Rodeo". We were now using them for practice. The embers were now slowly burning out behind me. We were now approaching the apes' habitat.

There was far less traffic then than now, and parking meters were only just coming in. By then the audience was dancing. By then the pigs were looking sick. By then, the Americans were celebrating a 19 ½-14 ½ victory.

Meanwhile, I was hearing of the devastation Japanese kamikaze pilots were wreaking as they crashed onto the decks of our aircraft carriers and battleships. Meanwhile, Shirley was struggling. Meanwhile, people were dying. Meanwhile, we were waiting for more news. Meanwhile, the funds were disappearing. Meanwhile, the boys were growing up.

After the war the army was scraping the bottom of the barrel to get the guys for the occupation forces in Germany. Her once skeptical husband changed his mind when he saw that she was already earning double

what he made. It allowed me to spend a lot of time with Laura, who was in high school and still living at home. Within a decade of going independent, he was earning £ 15,000 a year. We were still receiving Christmas cards and packages in February. During my stay in Israel I did not have much occasion to travel on buses, as I was driving a rented car. Working closely with her mentor, she was speaking and writing in English within a year. Last spring, three years after his transplant, he was running nine to eleven kilometres every day and feeling good. The whole time he was in Rome, he was training for a marathon. {A few years ago, she moved to Paris to apprentice with a master chocolatier. She found herself packing chocolates and scrubbing pots. If she wasn't doing that, she was sweeping floors, wrapping gifts, answering telephones or shipping orders.} He made it till he was 64, and he was really suffering in the last years. For weeks she wasn't smiling any more and her eyes had gone strained and scared. After Pearl Harbor, German U-boats off the U.S. coast were sinking merchant ships regularly. She says she is buying no Christmas presents for her two daughters this year. Within a few weeks of retirement, he was hardly leaving the house, watching television and reading the newspaper. This was one of those years when my mother was not speaking to her sister. The "few minutes" turned out to be over fifteen and Christopher and Margaret were soon regretting their decision to assist their friends. After Pearl Harbor, German U-boats off the U.S. coasts were sinking merchant ships regularly. Long before medical costs became a national issue, W. Reuther was advocating universal health care. During the early years of the Weimar Republic people were pushing their money around in wheelbarrows because hyperinflation was pushing prices up literally by the hours. Those are the clothes that she was wearing that night. They were still arguing like mad at six in the evening. A week later, she was still sulking. Within ten days, he was eating, talking and breathing on his own. Ten years ago I was selling insurance. The firm set up business in 1811, and two years later their products were being used by the Navy and Army. Before the war, some 300,000 foreign nationals were residing permanently in Ukraine. {When I left Omaha, nobody in my class was dancing. When I moved to Washington, everybody had been dancing for a year or two. So I never caught up, in effect.} (Warren Buffett) Within months, his garden was producing lettuces, spinach, tomatoes, cucumbers and squash. The judge was growing more stout and more dignified every year. Douglas, though still at home, was growing more independent every year. {We were not making prisoners at that stage. We threw down grenades. Anything that moved we shot.} For several days, he hardly knew what he was doing. After a year or so, it wasn't clear whether the medication was having any effect.

Im Englischunterricht werden die Schüler trainiert auf Sätze vom Typ: I was watching television when suddenly the telephone rang. Da haben wir den typischen Kontrast einer verlaufenden Hintergrund-Handlung in der progressive form (= "was watching"), die von einem neu eintretenden Ereignis in der simple form (= "rang") unterbrochen wird. Eine Hintergrund-Handlung wird oft mit "while" eingeleitet: While I was shaving, the telephone rang / The telephone rang while I was shaving. Solche Standard-Sätze könnten leicht zu der Schlussfolgerung (ver)führen, dass "while" ein Signalwort für die progressive form sei – umso mehr, als sich auch eine deutsche Übersetzung mit "gerade" anbietet: "Als ich mich gerade rasierte, läutete das Telephon." Es mag daher für manche Leser überraschend sein, dass der Konnex "while" + progressive form keinesfalls in Stein gemeißelt ist – es gibt viele Gegenbeispiele. Hier eine Reihe davon:

While my brother swam and my parents sunbathed, I hunted lizards in the rocks. – Hier werden uns (aus der Sicht des Sprechers) drei gleichwertige Handlungen präsentiert; "swam" und "sunbathed" sind kein "Hintergrund". Möglich wären allerdings auch "was swimming / were sunbathing" + "hunted" ebenso wie 3 x progressive form. Ähnlich auch: While they ate the cake and sipped the wine, she thought about the message. One of the lads sat up each night in the stable, while the other slept in the loft. (C. Doyle) He stood wordlessly at the window while she heated coffee on the stove. While Joe cooked some meat, Tom and Huck went to the river and caught some fish. (Mark Twain) One night in August last year, while I slept I was burgled. He drank his beer slowly while he listened to his wife. People rose and watched while the three boys walked to the front of the church. (Mark Twain)

Auch in den folgenden Sätzen wäre eine progressive form im "while"-Satz ebenfalls möglich:

I blushed beet red while the crowd roared with laughter.

Many of his friends wrote to him while he fought for his life in the hospital.

Weeks turned into months while he waited to hear from the Marine Corps.

He closed his eyes to rest while we waited for the ambulance.

While we waited by the guard shacks I saw two bulletin boards on either side of the entrance.
 He explained our predicament to them while we waited outside.
 There was another silence while we waited.
 He took me out for dinner and read his e-mail while we waited for our food.
 While she waited her turn she felt [= *betastete*] her hair, which must have been looking dreadful. (Kingsley Amis)
 I have frequently come into your room, and watched you while you slept. (Frank Stockton)
 Plan A had been to surprise him while he slept.
 Peter read while he ate, but he didn't find anything useful.
 He seemed to be enjoying himself as he and a friend engaged in a conversation while they ate the meal from a bowl which was served on the table.
 He lay in my arms while he drifted in and out of consciousness.
 I wasn't thinking about that while I sat there, I was thinking what to do.
 {Holmes sat in his big armchair with the weary expression which hid his normally keen, energetic and eager nature, while I sat opposite him, and we listened in silence to the strange story which our visitor, Mr Hatherley, told us.} (C. Doyle)
 I understand he was conscious for a short time, while they carried him into the house.
 While the war raged, Churchill led a coalition government.
 He watched her while she made tea.
 While Mr. Sprague prayed, a flying bug stopped on the back of the seat in front of Tom Sawyer. (Mark Twain)
 They left her there while they searched the house.
 While I lay under the trees, I heard a distant sound.
 He let me do it myself while he watched and stood ready to help.
 I held the string while my father held the kite.
 I looked over his shoulder while he read.
 They were encouraged to explain their views in some detail, while all the others just listened.
 He wanted to wait while I wrote the letter.
 She shot him while he slept.
 While I read, my friend finished his work.

Für mit "as" eingeleitete Sätze gibt es ebenfalls viele Beispiele mit der simple form:

The music got louder as they came nearer. Then as we watched, an airplane flew right into the side of the second tower. As the day wore on, I could see my father getting more and more impatient and excited. (R. Dahl) As we waited, the sky darkened and filled with a tapestry of stars. As I waited at the gate, a car approached. Paul thought about the conversation as he lay in his bath. (E. Waugh) One evening in 1369, as the king lay asleep with his favourite mistress, some dissident noblemen burst in and killed him. I can see them now as they sat there on this particular evening. A jaguar killed one of the children as he slept. As I walked back to the village he followed me, shouting fresh insults. As I sat there and listened to one of the longest briefings I'd ever heard, my mind wandered briefly to my children. I heard him lock the door as I came downstairs. (C. Doyle) As the sun rose, the silence was broken by sniper fire. As the sun rose out of the water it painted everything in a golden colour. The first wave of German fighters attacked us as we crossed the coast. As he lay in the jungle grass he heard a loud hissing by his right shoulder. As night fell, we headed up Cajon Pass and into the high desert. He paced back and forth as I made notes of his instructions. As we headed toward our rendezvous with the KC-135 tanker, the sun sank into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. As aircraft improved, the systems designed to kill them also became more lethal. I looked at the rapidly graying sky as sunrise approached. "A simple case, and yet in some ways an instructive one," Holmes remarked, as we travelled back to town. (C. Doyle) Holmes shrugged his shoulders as we walked away together. (C. Doyle) There was something that touched me as I read the letter. (C. Doyle) His expression grew very grave as he spoke. (C. Doyle) Suddenly, as she spoke, I saw her face grow whiter yet in the moonlight. (C. Doyle) She raised her veil as she spoke. (C. Doyle) Imagine, then, my terror when last night, as I lay awake, I suddenly heard in the silence of the night the low whistle that heralded [my sister's] own death. (C. Doyle) He walked into the dining-room as we sat after dinner, and announced his intention in the thick voice of a half-drunken man. (C. Doyle) One

winter's night, as we sat together by the fire, I ventured to suggest he might employ the next two hours in making our room a little more habitable. As I watched them Stapleton rose and left the room, while Sir Henry filled his glass again. (C. Doyle) The man looked nervously around him as he spoke. (C. Doyle) "I have ordered a carriage," said Lestrade as we sat over a cup of tea. (C. Doyle) As I waited, I lifted the unopened newspaper from the table. (C. Doyle) As I dressed I glanced at my watch. (C. Doyle) As we drove, we listened to the news unfolding on the radio. As I walked I heard a shout behind me. (C. Doyle) As we waited for the procession to begin, I asked him about his current work. As he knelt before the king, the knight said, "My gracious and sovereign lord, I present myself here to seek your justice." They stole food and water from us as we slept. As he spoke, he wrung his hands in frustration. As he spoke the siren sounded. "Are you happy now?" she asked me, as we drove along. As we walked together through the darkness, the wind was blowing strongly. As darkness slowly fell, the team cleaned their weapons. She went to bed early and as she slept, she had a most curious dream. She sat down in her office, smoking a little distractedly as she waited. As they drove back to the forest, Nancy started to laugh. He looked at me carefully as I spoke. He rose as he spoke. As she spoke a light appeared at the other end of the passage. One afternoon, as I sat there after lunch, I slipped off to sleep. He was killed by a bomb planted in his rented car as he drove along a busy thoroughfare in Tel Aviv last month. The teenage killer who shot schoolboy R. Jones dead as he walked home from football practice has been sentenced to a minimum of 21 years in jail for murder. We were standing up now, watching the machine as it taxied towards us. I saw glimpses of night-time L. A. as we drove, and armed security officers when we arrived. A light rain fell on them as they strolled along the pier. I watched him as he ate. As I ran I could see that he was still holding the white object in his hand. She was spotted by one of her attackers as she walked through the park. As I hurried toward the river, I suddenly met Uncle Silas. He pressed the lift button as she read the telegram. The children were staring at the policemen as they ate. As she hurried back to the office, she realized she had forgotten her keys. Suddenly, as I ran, a deadly dizziness and sickness came over me. As we rolled into Eyford station we saw a gigantic column of smoke which streamed up from behind a small clump of trees. Stephen Lawrence was murdered by a group of young racist thugs as he stood at a bus stop in south London. He was knocked down by a car as he crossed the street. On the second evening, as Hornblower walked the quarterdeck enjoying the sea breeze, there came the sound of firing from the beach. As we drove through the streets, I craned my neck to get a glimpse of the city. As he walked through the gate, he saw Joe standing there, holding his son. As we sped along down the middle of the river, the early morning air was cool and invigorating. I gave final instructions to the platoon leaders as we ate. As they strolled up College Road, he began talking about the examination results. As winter approached, we found our activities reduced. We saw that they had been stabbed to death as they slept. As we walked, Tom told me how my friends thought that I had been killed. As he ate, she lit a cigarette and watched. As Tom walked to school, he met Huckleberry Finn. (Mark Twain)

Die nächsten beiden Beispiele sind anders geartet: Zwar gibt es auch hier einen mit "as" eingeleiteten Nebensatz, aber die Überraschung liegt in der simple form (anstatt zu erwartender progressive form) des Hauptsatzes (bzw. eines anderen Nebensatzes).

I could not but observe that as she took the seat which Sherlock Holmes placed for her, her lip trembled, her hand quivered, and she showed every sign of intense inward agitation. (C. Doyle) As she came up the path she saw that with both arms he clutched to his stomach an enormous Bible.

Die vielen Beispiele mit "while" und "as" sind vermutlich die nächstliegenden Überraschungen im Gebrauch der simple vs. progressive form. Es gibt aber noch eine Menge weiterer Beispiele für die simple form, wo man eine progressive form erwarten könnte:

After a while he knew by the long, deep breathing that Elyas slept. (Ellis Peters)

The man who hid behind the rotted log peered through his rifle's scope and saw the sudden flash of movement.

Tent life was not unpleasant when the ocean breezes blew.

She had her head down, searching in her purse for her key, when she approached her home.

She stepped into a car bound for Boston Airport, where a plane waited to take her to New York.

They passed the Church of Saint Jean, where a dim light shone at the door.

{I looked out of the open window. The moon still shone brightly on that angle of the house.} (C. Doyle)
Someone had left a light on in the passage outside and it shone through the fan light of the bedroom door.
Ahead of her, lighted windows shone through the dusk, and the air was filled with the scent of drying leaves.

(R. Pilcher)

Something seemed to tell her that the message for which she waited had arrived and was lying there on the hall table. (Saki)

A footman came to announce that the carriage waited to take Yeovik back to the station. (Saki)

I saw in the gaslight that Holmes wore an amused smile. (C. Doyle)

I could see him better now that the lamplight shone upon him. (C. Doyle)

Walking up the stairs, I knew what I hoped for.

He looked behind him to make sure he was not followed when he left the café. (F. Forsyth) – *Zu erwarten:*

“... that he was not being followed”

Within a minute or two we were heading back to Jalalabad airfield where our squadron commander awaited.

We went into the dressing room, where Rosa waited.

The day was fine, the lake was blue, and the sun shone.

They couldn't hear us because we didn't wear shoes.

When he felt certain that no one watched him, he took the rifle from its hiding place.

He installed me and my luggage in the wagonette that waited in the station yard.

The diamond lay on the table when Watson paid his visit at 7 p.m.

A wave of laughter began at our table, and it still resonated through the restaurant as I paid my bill and hurried back to the car.

He turned once and saw that they still watched him.

It was a cold February morning, and snow lay deep on the ground.

I returned to the room downstairs, where Ferguson and Holmes still sat by the fire. (C. Doyle)

He looked up at the face that watched him between the curtains.

At every steepest corner he took the utmost pain to see that he was not followed.

In den Grammatiken findet man Listen von Verben “not generally used in the continuous tenses”: “Not generally” heißt, dass es Ausnahmen gibt. Hier sind einige Beispiele aus der past tense (in alphabetischer Reihenfolge):

When I'd ask people about the war, the first reaction was dismay about how much it was costing. The war was costing the United States \$300 million a day. It was costing me as much as a weekend in Brighton. My mother's drugs for mental illness and dementia were costing her about \$850 a month. Because they are so common in dormitories, Ms. Thorne said, "these lamps were costing the colleges a fortune".

Ruth got me really giggling and I could tell all the other girls were hating us. I was getting mad – I was hating them enough to lose my head. He was pained, because he knew his colleagues were hating him at that moment, but he really was putting the interests of the troops first, at least as he saw them. But the ridiculous thing was it was our own supporters who were hating us. They would look at us like they were hating us.

{Last year, at my yearly exam at House Ear Institute, the team thought I might do better with a cochlear implant. My left ear was still hearing well, but my right was hearing poorly.} {When you have an implant, voices do sound funny in the first few weeks, and then your brain kicks in and you realise you remember sounds. There are things you hear, that make you realise what you missed. Within a month I was hearing really well.} It was difficult because I felt like no one could imagine what I was hearing, and also the doctors had no test for pitch. Most people don't talk any different than they did when they were hearing better. Theatre-maker Jonny Cotsen's parents raised him as though he were hearing, but when he became a teacher he realised the extent of his deafness. *In diesen Beispielen geht es tatsächlich um das Hörvermögen, also um sinnliche Wahrnehmung.*

Regulär sind Sätze, wo “was / were hearing” einen anderen Sinn hat, nämlich “gesprächsweise informiert werden“: I struggled to believe what I was hearing. Meanwhile, I was hearing of the devastation Japanese kamikaze pilots were wreaking as they crashed onto the decks of our aircraft carriers and battleships. Mr. Joslin said he was hearing a different story.

I **was liking** this better all the time. It was clear that I was liking her and she was liking me. He knew what it was like to be a leader, and he wasn't liking that part of his job very much. I wasn't liking the movies I was making, and I needed to take a break and collect myself and think about my personal life. They were trying to ask him other questions and he wasn't liking it. Eight young Indians were seated around the largest table, in the middle of the room, and the manager, an Indian man with a mustache, went over to them frequently to see how they were liking the meal. The eager, assured young sommelier guided our choices, then returned to the table from time to time to share his thoughts about how the wine was developing in the glass, to see how we were liking it, all without an ounce of pretension.

And soon, I **was loving** what I was doing with my life. Frank was loving all the publicity. I missed the action, the adrenaline rush and the boys – I was not exactly loving my new assignment. I was loving every moment of it. The crowd was loving every minute, and surely would've stayed six hours had Taylor and King [= two rock stars] indulged them. She tells a story where she got booted from a club in Denver after a few nights because audiences simply weren't loving her style. {I'm not going to lie – there was a period there when I felt I wasn't loving it. It was a serious strain on me.}

{“Has it ever occurred to you,” the old lady went on, “how much we go by what is called, I believe, the context? There is a place on Dartmoor called Grey Wethers. If you were talking to a farmer there and mentioned Grey Wethers, he would probably conclude that you were speaking of these stone circles, yet it is possible that you might be speaking of the atmosphere; and in the same way, if you **were meaning** the stone circles, an outsider, hearing a fragment of the conversation, might think you meant the weather.”} (A. Christie) They won, and they were happy, but when Mourinho talked about the "complete performance," he was meaning Shaw, rather than the team as a whole. We can all probably imagine who Brian McClair was meaning when the former United player and coach wrote on Twitter that Mourinho was "not the only one who should depart". That's not what she was meaning when she said that she didn't trust me. I wasn't meaning that I found dead children funny, of course, but I don't think for a second that my humour was going to change because I had kids".

Wenn "to mean" "beabsichtigen" heißt, dann kann es natürlich in der progressive form stehen:

"I don't think she was meaning to be cool," Walker said. When I sat down to tell her of my infidelity on that fateful Monday evening, I was meaning to tell her the affair was over, and that I was sorry. I wasn't meaning to cause trouble, I was just very young and had no social skills.

Watching the Twin Towers on live television, we could barely believe what we **were seeing**. I'd gotten a piece of glass stuck in my face and wasn't seeing so well. The report had failed to make clear to viewers that what they were seeing was a reconstruction, rather than actual footage of HMS Splendid engaged in action against Iraq. I could hardly believe what I was seeing. Many of the Australians were seeing snow for the first time, and they greeted it like schoolboys, with boisterous delight. My high-adrenaline state had me wondering if I was really seeing what I thought I was seeing. We didn't know whether what we were seeing on the screen was a boy or a girl. I woke up about eight and tried to read, but was only seeing the words. What I was seeing on my screen was mass murder. What I was seeing was the very top of the sinking boat. He didn't like what he was seeing ahead of him. The two children stared at him as though they were seeing a lunatic. {He shook his head to clear his vision. He was afraid he had dozed off and was seeing things in his sleep.} A farmer who lived adjacent to the cemetery said that he first saw excavators and trucks arriving at Najha in 2011 and was still seeing them as recently as 2024.

In den beiden nächsten Beispiel hat "seeing" jeweils eine andere Bedeutung: Until he got sick, he was seeing up to 30 patients a day as a country doctor.

He was cute and super chill, but I was dating a football player and he was seeing a girl on the volleyball team.

We **were wanting** something good to come out of it. What has happened was not what we were wanting from an Islamic government. We were wanting to make the most of internet access at home. Suddenly, hundreds were wanting to help out. I don't think their peers were wanting to take a stand against them. And there I was wanting to run off into my future. It seemed that the boy was wanting his teachers to provide the firmness lacking at home. How much were you wanting to spend? Last year, I was desperately wanting to return to the woman I was before, hoping that if I made the reflection in the mirror look like her, I would be magically healed.

Im nächsten Beispiel hat "to want" eine andere Bedeutung: "fehlen": Credit was good, employment **was never wanting**, and there was no lack of either money or good will. (E. A. Poe) {The House of Medici was desperately wanting in male heirs; Francesco Maria, previously a cardinal, was released from his vows to remedy this.} They concluded that the plan was wanting [= mangelhaft].

Wiederholungen bzw. *Gewohnheiten stehen in der Regel in der simple Form – aber nicht immer. Hier einige Beispiele für Wiederholungen bzw. Gewohnheiten in der past progressive form:*

Every night young men were stealing cars, racing them about wildly. I always did know, even when she was a child, when she was not telling me the whole truth. I was teaching Bible lessons every Sunday in my local church and decided to describe my religious experiences and beliefs in two books. (Jimmy Carter) My wife and I were also active in Plains Baptist Church, and soon both of us were teaching Bible lessons every Sunday morning. (Jimmy Carter) The study found that people who were regularly sleeping less than seven hours daily were 21% to 26% more likely to die of any cause during the study's 22-year period than those who slept more than eight hours. I studied physics at university, but every evening I was practising with the band. Even though I was getting up at five every morning to deliver papers, I still had enough stamina to go to a lot of parties and after-school events. It seemed that every other week some goody-ass teacher was calling up my parents to complain about how I wasn't living up to my potential. I was still playing baseball in the streets with neighborhood kids every night. I was soon driving down there a couple of times a week, then every weekend, to see my girlfriend. Every morning when he was having his breakfast, his wife asked him for money. By the time I was eight years old I was regularly going to the football ground by myself. When supper was being served, the widow always rang a bell, and I had to come quickly. I saw the picture every day as I was cleaning his room. Eventually, he was making tea for us in the evenings. Mrs Bridge wrote that Carolyn was playing golf every afternoon. I never intervened when she was having a rough time.

Die Gewohnheit kommt besonders gut zum Ausdruck in der Phrase "when ... not":

When he was not flying he came home at night. I also started restoring furniture, an enjoyable hobby and mildly lucrative when I wasn't giving the stuff away to the kids in the neighborhood. The pilots were permitted to leave the post on the Saturday afternoons or Sundays when they weren't flying. The servants had nowhere comfortable to sit when they weren't working. When the Mogul horseman wasn't fighting, he was hunting. {When it wasn't snowing, it was raining. Mud was everywhere.} When he wasn't flying helicopters, Bill drove his Lambretta [= italienischer Motorroller] come rain or sunshine.

*Manchmal wird die progressive form für **beiläufige Bemerkungen** verwendet:*

As I was saying, I admire these qualities. I was talking the other day to my sister, who teaches 10-year-olds in a London school. An acquaintance of ours was complaining the other day about how our so-called free health care in Canada still makes you pay for medication if you don't have health insurance. At least one demographer I was talking to recently said it looks like, in most cases, IVF doesn't increase the birth rate. Edith was just telling me about her job. Do you remember what we were talking about yesterday morning? {He's such a brilliant talker, too. But we all know from whom he inherits that. Lord Allendale was saying to me only yesterday, in the park, that Mr Graham talks almost as well as his aunt.} (O. Wilde) When I go home, my mother often tells me how she was telling her friends about me. I was telling him something about it this morning. "Tom Duncan was asking about you the other day," she said, but Ruth was not interested.

2.2. Past tense instead of present perfect tense:

Definitionsgemäß bezeichnet die past tense etwas, das schon vergangen ist; für einen Zeitraum, der bis in die Gegenwart reicht, gibt es ja die present perfect tense. Dennoch gibt es bemerkenswerte Ausnahmen.

*Es gibt einige Adverben bzw. Zeitangaben, die gerne mit der past tense verbunden werden, obwohl sie bis in die Gegenwart reichen und daher "eigentlich" eine present perfect tense erwarten ließen. Ein häufig vorkommendes solches Adverb ist **"never"**. Die unklare Position von "never" sieht man in solchen Sätzen besonders gut, wo es sowohl mit der present perfect tense als auch mit der past tense kombiniert wird: {"He was never better in health," said Bennett. "In fact, he is stronger than I have known him for years.}" (C.*

Doyle) *In beiden Fällen geht es um einen Zeitraum bis zur Gegenwart – einmal steht ganz regulär die present perfect tense ("have known"), das andere Mal überwiegt jedoch die Gewohnheit, "never" mit der past tense zu kombinieren. Ebenso: I have seen Mr Sholto in joy and sorrow for ten years, but I never saw him with such a face on him as that. (C. Doyle) Ebenso: I have known him for some time, but I never knew him do anything without a very good reason. (C. Doyle)*

Es geht aber auch andersrum: I feel like he has never been there for me when I needed him the most in the worst times in my life.

Es folgen weitere Beispiele für "never" + past tense. Man beachte, dass es sich dabei keineswegs um eine Besonderheit des American English handelt, wie die 14 nächsten Beispiele aus dem Werk von Conan Doyle belegen. (C. Doyle ist ein Lieblings-Autor des Verfassers, diese Häufung hat sonst keinen besonderen Grund.)

I have known that young man go into a good many cases, but I never saw the case yet that he could not throw a light upon. (C. Doyle) The truth is that I was never much of a credit to the family, and I doubt if they would be so very glad to see me. (C. Doyle) {What has he against me? I never hurt man or woman in my life.} (C. Doyle) I never was more glad to see anyone in my life. (C. Doyle) I was never so struck by anything in my life. (C. Doyle) {Heavens, sir, what an idea! I never thought of such a villain!} (C. Doyle) I never saw a more inexorable face in my life. (C. Doyle) {The horse looks very fit and well. It never went better in his life.} (C. Doyle) I am a widower and never had any family. (C. Doyle) {I never went wrong before! I never will again. I swear it.} (D. Doyle) I was never in a case yet that I didn't feel stronger for having you on my side. (C. Doyle) I swear to you, Mr Holmes, that there never was in the world a man who loved a woman with a more wholehearted love. (C. Doyle) There's an east wind coming, such a wind as never blew on England yet. (C. Doyle) I never saw a worse car than this. (C. Doyle)

"I was never a morning person," Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook founder, said in 2016. Under-confidence and a half-hearted approach never won any battle. I never saw a man change so much in so short a time. {"I'm worried about Grimes," said Mr Prendergast that evening. "I never saw a man more changed.} (E. Waugh) {"Do you like martinis?" – "Never drank one.} Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few. (W. Churchill) {I never liked guns, I hate them. I always blink before they go off.} (Roger Moore) It's probably true that hard work never killed anyone, but I figure why take the chance? Some limp from broken bones that were never properly set. I never saw somebody look so sleep-deprived in my life. "There never was," said the Duke of Wellington, himself an Irishman, "a country in which poverty existed to so great a degree as it exists in Ireland." I never considered myself a maverick. (John MacCain, Arizona senator) I love to be alone; I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. (H. D. Thoreau) I never read much because I was too busy living. (Mae West) "I was never so insulted in my life," said the girl. {"You wore a costume of dove-coloured silk with ostrich feather trimming." – "I never had such a dress, sir," answered the lady.} (A. Christie) A handsomer, finer lad than his grandson I never saw. (F. H. Burnett) I'm not married – I never was in my life. (G. B. Shaw) I never heard such a story in all my life. He is one of the nicest men I know and he never hurt anyone. I never was good at acting. {Wilbur is no criminal. He never was one.} I never learned anything by talking. (Larry King) It's true that hard work never killed anybody, but I figure, why take the chance? (R. Reagan) {My husband was kidnapped on May 5, 1981. I never saw him again.}

Damit kein falscher Eindruck entsteht - selbstverständlich gibt es auch viele Beispiele mit "never + present perfect tense":

He doesn't know better and has never done anything else. They seem a bit confused as this has never happened before. To create is to make something that has never existed before. He who has never hoped can never despair. She who has never loved, has never lived. This operation has never been performed in this country. Writing has never been easy. {I've never had a problem with drugs. I've had problems with the police.} (Keith Richards) I've never gone to bed with an ugly woman, but I've sure woke [sic!] up with a few. (Bobby Bare)

Ein weiteres Adverb, welches gerne mit der past tense verbunden wird, obwohl es sinngemäß einen Präsens-Bezug hat, ist "ever". Auch hier kann man Kombinationen mit der present perfect tense finden:

All the time that she has been with us I cannot remember that she was ever seriously ill. (Saki) {Did you ever

see a bed like that before? – I cannot say that I have.} We have all seen rough seas, cyclones and high tides, but nobody ever saw or heard about such a thing (= tsunami) coming from our sea.

It is the weirdest, strangest thing that I ever heard in my life. (C. Doyle) Did you ever hear of Dawson and Neligan? (C. Doyle) It was the first case in which I was ever engaged. (C. Doyle) I can't see the best woman God ever made go to her death without doing all that is possible to save her. (C. Doyle) {"You've done yourself no good this morning, Mr. Holmes, for I have broken stronger men than you. No man ever crossed me and was the better for it." – "So many have said so, and yet here I am," said Holmes, smiling.} (C. Doyle)

No artist was ever a great lover. (Saki) He is one of the most amusing boys I ever met. (Saki) He is the bravest man I ever saw. He was the cleverest man I ever knew. "That's a nasty little boy," said Mr Prendergast, "if ever there was one." (E. Waugh) He was the most interested student I ever saw. She's as quiet and friendly and sweet-natured as she ever was. (Robertson Davies) The Winchester is by all odds the best weapon I ever had, and now I use it almost exclusively. (Theodore Roosevelt) Did you ever notice how all our problems start with men? Did you ever imagine the U.S. would be where we are today in terms of widespread acceptance of gays? Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm. (Emerson) {Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not here.} No man but a blockhead ever wrote, except for money. (Samuel Johnson) This taught me one of the most important lessons I ever learnt. I think you are prettier than anyone I ever saw. Your children are the most ungrateful things I ever saw. {Come and dance with me! Did you ever hear such a band?} {Tom said: "Becky, were you ever engaged?" – "What's that?" – "Engaged to be married." – "No."} (Mark Twain) He is the laziest man I ever saw. Did you ever hear anything so wonderful? He was the kindest and the wisest man I ever knew. You are the prettiest girl I ever saw. (O. Wilde) "Ray," I said, "you're looking at the dumbest test pilot who ever lived." Tell me, Mr. Spence, did you ever represent someone whom you knew to be guilty of the crime charged? The only crocodile I ever saw is in the museum here. This is the queerest house I was ever in. He is the best boxer I ever saw. Did you ever try nicotine patches which you stick on your body? Was there ever in human history a tale of greater courage?

Damit kein falscher Eindruck entsteht - selbstverständlich gibt es auch viele Beispiele mit "ever + present perfect tense":

No one has ever loved me the way you do. He feels better than he has ever felt before. Not a whiff of scandal has ever tainted his private life. He is the rudest man it has ever been my misfortune to meet. Sceptics will argue that no such scheme has ever proved successful. It's the best thing that has ever happened to me. He is the greatest athlete this country has ever produced. The only foreign country we have ever been to is Mexico. All the murders I've ever been involved in have happened because the perpetrators were mad or angry or drunk.

Besonders auffällig ist es, wenn "(my) life" mit der past tense verbunden wird. Man gewinnt fast den Eindruck, als höre man eine Stimme aus dem Grab sprechen:

I never used a logarithm in my life. (G. B. Shaw) I think the most extraordinary thing about my life is how extraordinary it was. After being contacted by a very charming BBC researcher – who came round to my parents' house to meet me, presumably to make sure I wasn't horribly deformed, deranged or suffering from Tourette's – and receiving the glorious news that my letter to Jimmy Savile had been accepted, my life was never the same again. Its a fucking cliché but my life was never the same again. So I'm reading, and I'm like, "Oh, my God, I think I'm in literature," but my life was never like that. My life was never horrible, it was just different. {I have spent the majority of my life fighting for The Malvinas to once again be Argentinean – in some ways I think my life never got off that boat. I hope I live to see the day when they come back to us and I can believe that all that sacrifice was worth something.} {I'm not drawn to the old neighbourhood, my life never revolved around the old neighbourhood. I don't give a fuck about the old neighbourhood. I'm from wherever I happen to be.} To be honest, my life never had moments like that. {"It's a bit strange, this balance of going deeply to the roots of theater and then – ole, ole! – Hollywood, which is not really my thing," Ms. Keller said a few days before beginning rehearsals at the Met last month. "But my life was always a bit of everything."} {"I dreamed all my life, since I was six years old," she said. "The first dream of mine was to go to America."

Anders sind natürlich solche Sätze zu bewerten: My life never made sense to me until I met you. I've slowed down a lot; my life was always run at 100mph. {The bloodlines of two strong Indigenous cultures run

through Latoya; on her mum's side she is Wiradjuri, and her father is Maori. As a child, Latoya grew up immersed in another culture too – the Christian church. Her dad was a pastor. "I guess my life was always around Christianity, everyone's equal and all that shit," she explains.}

In der Regel steht natürlich die present perfect tense im Zusammenhang mit dem Leben eines Menschen, der noch nicht gestorben ist: Yes, there have been women in my life. My parents came here in the eighties and I have been here all my life. I've lived through some terrible things in my life. I think most of us who grew up on farms during the Great Depression have been stamped for life by the experience. (Jimmy Carter) At times in her career, Ms. Mosaku has drawn on her own experience as a Nigerian who immigrated at a year old to Manchester, England, and felt distanced from her family's Yoruba heritage.} I have known him all my life.

{David Alexander Wolf (born August 23, 1956) is an American astronaut, medical doctor and electrical engineer. Wolf has been to space four times.} *Die Weltraumflüge sind zwar schon alle vorbei, aber D. A. Wolf ist noch am Leben.*)

Bemerkenswert sind Sätze in der present perfect tense, die sich eindeutig auf einen bereits vergangenen Abschnitt des Lebens beziehen:

Anyone who has been to an **English public school** will always feel comparatively at home in prison. (E. Waugh) *Die Public School-Zeit mag schon lange vorbei sein, aber sie ist ein Bestandteil des Lebens, und das dauert noch an.*

{He paused then said smilingly, "You see the point? The pen was filled with what is commonly known as Evanescent Ink - a solution of starch in water to which a few drops of iodine has been added. This makes a deep blue-black fluid, but the writing disappears entirely in four or five days." Miss Marple chuckled. "Disappearing ink," she said. "I know it. Many is the time I have played with it **as a child**." (A. Christie)

{Oh, any old key will fit that bureau [= *Schreibtisch; Kommode*]. **When I was a youngster** I have opened it myself with the key of the box-room cupboard.} (C. Doyle)

{"You have boxed a good deal **in your youth**." – "Right again. How did you know it? Is my nose knocked a little out of the straight?" – "No," said I. "It is your ears. They have the peculiar flattening and thickening which marks the boxing man."} (C. Doyle)

{'We can't possibly carry this lot all the way home,' I said. – 'Of course not. There'll be a taxi waiting for us on the track outside the wood.' – 'A taxi!' I said. – 'My dad always made use of a taxi on a big job,' he said. – 'Why a taxi, for heaven's sake?' – 'It's more secret, Danny. Nobody knows who's inside a taxi except the driver.' – 'Which driver?' I asked. – 'Charlie Kinch. He's only too glad to oblige.' – 'Does he know about poaching, too?' – 'Old Charlie Kinch? Of course he does. He's poached more pheasants **in his time** than we've sold gallons of petrol.'} (R. Dahl) *Das Adjektiv "old" in "Old Charlie Kinch" deutet darauf hin, dass "in his time" eine bereits vergangene Periode bezeichnet. Trotzdem verwendet Roald Dahl die present perfect tense "he's poached" – für ihn überwiegt offenbar der Umstand, dass Charlie Kinch noch am Leben ist und noch recht aktiv zu sein scheint.*

People forget that the elderly have all been young **once**, and some have done remarkable things. – *Auch wenn die Jugend schon lange her ist für die "elderly" – sie gehört ja doch zu ihrer Biografie.*

Sato, who **in better times** has been a cook and an elevator operator, spends his days sitting in the park, his nights sleeping under a bridge.

I've made parachute jumps, learned to ski **at 40**, flown up the Rhine in a balloon.

I have been a boy myself, and I know what a boy is. (Robertson Davies) – *Offenbar spricht hier ein Erwachsener, aber die Jugend ist Teil seiner Biografie, und seine seinerzeitigen Erlebnisse sind ihm noch präsent.*

You see, I've heard this music chiefly **in Switzerland**, and we were up among the mountains all the time. (Saki) – *Sowohl der Verweis auf die Schweiz als auch die past tense "were up among the mountains" legen eine past tense nahe. Der britische Schriftsteller Saki will jedoch eine persönliche Erfahrung zum Ausdruck bringen, und da sind Ort und Zeit nicht so wichtig.*

There have been summers when I couldn't wear T-shirts. – *Der letzte dieser kalten Sommer ist wohl schon länger vorbei, aber hier spricht jemand über sein Leben / seine Lebenserfahrung.*

Weitere Beispiele für past tense trotz Bezugs zur Gegenwart:

{“Where is your hat?” she asked. “I didn’t bring one with me,” he replied.} (Saki)

I drove out here to see you!

Did you hear the latest rumor?

{Did you come to see Father? I expect him back every minute.} (C. Doyle)

From the moment I met you I loved you. (O. Wilde)

I’m 52, and I saw a lot of friends die of HIV.

Der nächste Satz muss näher analysiert werden: I have been astonished at the generosity of some persons in the way they forgave me for my mistakes. – “Have been astonished” ist eine Art Lernprozess bzw. Erkenntnis im Leben des Sprechers (bis zur Gegenwart), während “forgave me” auf einzelne Begebenheiten verweist, die bereits vergangen sind. Ähnlich: I have always helped you when you were in trouble.

Es geht aber auch anders: There were points in my life when I felt oddly irresistible to women. (Jack Nicholson at age 73) Hier wäre auch möglich: There have been points in my life ...

{“Apropos of nothing in particular . . . were you at Oxford?” – “Yes,” said the young man. “Why do you ask?” – “I just wondered if I was right in my guess. It’s one of the things you can very often tell about a man, isn’t it?”}

Hier haben wir einen idiomatischen Sonderfall: “Were you at Oxford“ fragt danach, ob der Gesprächspartner in Oxford studiert habe. Im Gegensatz dazu fragt “Have you been to Oxford?“ danach, ob er je (als Besucher oder Tourist) dort gewesen sei.

2.3. Past tense instead of past perfect tense

Bisweilen steht die past tense anstatt einer past perfect tense, wenn die Vorzeitigkeit außer Zweifel steht und eine past perfect als “übergenu“ empfunden werden könnte (siehe auch 4.1.):

Much of Southern California was (> *had been?*) dry scrubland until canals brought water.

Ever since the Spokane Indian reservation was (> *had been?*) founded back in 1881, nobody in my family had ever lived anywhere else.

The four of them had sat in paralyzed silence as the old man made (> *had made? / had been making?*) his long slow way up the corridor to his study.

Since the night I met (> *had met?*) him he’d been talking about how excited he was to carry out this mission.

He’d probably been drifting in and out of consciousness since the beam fell (> *had fallen?*) on him.

{I said, “What?” I hadn’t been concentrating on all that he was (> *had been*) saying.}

The prime minister must have known well in advance that the European seal of approval was coming his way, because he was (> *had been?*) peacocking for days beforehand.

We knew (> *had known?*) beforehand that it was going to be pretty difficult.

Some suspected (> *had suspected*) beforehand that these matters would not be mentioned.

It was inexcusable that he didn’t inform us (> *hadn’t informed us*) about the changes beforehand.

The communication beforehand was (> *had been*) great, so we knew everything we needed.

His exam results were biffed [= *schlecht*] because he didn’t study (> *hadn’t studied*) enough beforehand.

Needless to say, hardly anything went the way we meticulously planned (> *had planned*) beforehand.

The terms of the agreement were correspondent to what we discussed (> *had discussed*) previously.

There were also palm trees everywhere, which did not exist (> *had not existed*) previously.

3. Einschub: Uneindeutige time markers

Bevor wir von der past tense zur present perfect tense übergehen, erscheint es angebracht, ein Kapitel jenen "time markers" zu widmen, die uneindeutig sind. Es handelt sich in diesem Kapitel um eine Erweiterung des Abschnitts 2.2. im vorigen Kapitel (das waren **never**, **ever** und Bezüge auf die Lebenszeit). Die Stichwörter stehen in alphabetischer Reihenfolge:

Ago: Kaum zu glauben, aber "ago" kann sogar zusammen mit der present tense verwendet werden:

{The only experience I can remember that would be of interest to you is the one about my poor niece Mabel's husband. It is about ten or fifteen years ago now, and happily it is all over and done with, and everyone has forgotten about it. People's memories are very short – a lucky thing, I always think.} (A. Christie) It is long ago that I really celebrated something so I am ready.

Die Google-KI schreibt dazu: "It is * ago" ist eine englische Konstruktion, die einen Zeitraum in der Vergangenheit beschreibt. Die korrekte deutsche Übersetzung lautet: "es ist ... her". Allerdings liefert Google dann nur wenige Beispiele dafür:

Today it is exactly one week ago that I had another surgery. Today, it is 42 years ago that Dr. Raymond Damadian and his assistant Larry Minkoff performed the first MRI [= magnetic resonance imaging] on a human. Today it is 250 years ago the Danish Ministry for Foreign Affairs was founded.

Es gibt übrigens auch Beispiele für "ago + present perfect tense":

Our optimism has long ago been replaced with pragmatism. Oddly enough, this particular fight has already been fought before, more than 20 years ago. He has told me some days ago how extremely keen he was that Dowding should go. In a French office, you need to hang around late even if you feel like the moment to pack up has come long ago. Unfortunately, golf has lost its magic long ago. In the Himalayas some mountain routes are still littered with waste from expeditions which have left the country long ago. Thousands of Mujahedins have been killed in one of the worst slaughters of the Gulf War a month ago. (Guardian)

Always: Zuerst Beispiele für "always + past tense", obwohl der Zeitraum, von dem die Rede ist, bis in die Gegenwart reicht:

Quite true, quite true – I always was that sort of chap. (G. B. Shaw) {He's a troublemaker! Always was and always will be!} {She's going to be fine. She always was pretty strong.} {Look at that bright shirt, that must be Albert Couch. He always was a fancy dresser.} Our family always was known for its great reserve. I always was good at amateur theatricals. I always had a leaning towards sport. I always knew they were a nest of careerists, but recent experience shows that the careerist is now being replaced by worse: the ideologue rampant. You always were a vain woman. {I've been going out with Billy for eight months. He always told me that he could never look at another woman. But he can and did.}

Selbstverständlich gibt es auch jede Menge Beispiele mit "always + present perfect tense":

I've always had a thing for cats. When asked about his personality, he said, "I always have had a positive, very optimistic mindset." I have always valued his advice. The two countries have always maintained close relations. Immigrant tales have always been popular themes in fiction. Rivers have always been a dumping ground for man's unwanted waste. Music and arts have always played the key role in my life.

Natürlich funktioniert "always" auch mit der present tense:

The greatest talkers are always the least doers. The punishment must always fit the crime. Before leaving, they always high-five as a fun goodbye gesture. I hate when my socks get wet; they always feel itchy afterward. The establishment always wins. The show always goes on. The innocents always suffer.

Before (hier geht es um das Adverb "before", nicht um die Präposition "before"): Das sieht aus, als verlange es die past tense, aber "before" kann auch mit der present perfect tense verwendet werden:

I've written a few songs recently that are different from anything I've written before. (B. Springsteen) Have you had arguments before? They want to build on the successes they've had before. We've succeeded before and

we can succeed again. I truly do believe that it's possible for us to change our habits — even when we've failed before. Many people trying to quit have tried before. Climate catastrophe has happened before — and it's teaching us about the future. Once I'm inside a culinary casbah, I'm on the lookout for spices I've never tried before, because I love to cook and to experiment with new flavors. Yet this has been tried before: Hezbollah leaders have been killed and kidnapped and the guerrillas carried on. This tactic has worked before. I have been to London two or three times before. That has been pointed out to me before. I think there have been pirates on this island before. I don't know, I have never seen him before. The strategy has been tried out before. Eleanor is happier than I have ever seen her before. I have never been crying like that before.

Selbstverständlich gibt es auch viele Beispiele mit "before" kombiniert mit der past tense:

Between two evils, I always pick the one I never tried before. (Mae West) {Her "suggestion" is just another example of evading, of pushing requested answers to some unknown point of time in the future. It isn't like this would be a completely new question which was never asked before. This question has been asked again and again.} It's amazing doing something that was never done before. It's so simple that you can't believe it was never invented before. Why wasn't this discovered before? If she asked you to stay for an additional two months that wasn't agreed upon before — would you do it? The peril of the position is now realized as it was never realized before.

Beforehand: Hier werden nur Beispiele mit der present perfect tense angeführt — andere tenses bergen keine Überraschungen:

People who are awakened while having REMs (= rapid eye movement) are very likely to report that they have been dreaming just beforehand. Students are required to complete all the courses they have selected beforehand. Cargo tanks should be spray cleaned only if they have been ventilated beforehand. Actions can only be registered if the corresponding objectives have been selected beforehand. Naturally, everything has been considered beforehand and embedded into processes. This is possible if it has been agreed beforehand between the business partners. Caregivers are only notified of events that they have defined beforehand.

Ever: ⇨ 2.2.

How long: In der Regel heißt es "How long has it been since ...":

How long has it been since you rode a horse? How long has it been since your last haircut? How long has it been since he saw them? How long has it been since you bought an album — an actual, physical product rather than a download? How long has it been since you told him you loved him? How long has it been since your mom passed away? How long has it been since you slept in a tent?

How long has it been since he's had a normal workday? How long has it been since there has been this much hope in those two cities? "How long has it been since you've taken me on a trip?" she asks him. How long has it been since you've had a warm bubble bath? How long has it been since you've been sick? How long has it been since you've had a "real job"? — In den letzten sechs Sätzen steht im Nebensatz "since + present perfect tense". Näheres zu dieser möglicherweise überraschenden present perfect tense nach "since" findet der Leser / die Leserin in einem separaten Artikel mit dem Titel "Since".

Seltener kommt vor "How long is it since":

How long is it since you finished working on that project? How long is it since you ate a real pizza if you think a cauliflower pizza is delicious? How long is it since we could say that? How long is it since we visited your mother? How long is it since we last went to the theatre? How long is it since you last called me that?

In: Was könnte ein deutlicheres Signalwort für die past tense sein als "in + vergangene Zeitangabe"? Trotzdem findet man sogar hier hin und wieder ein present perfect tense:

The last two recessions, in 1990-1 and 2001, have been mild. — Hier wäre freilich auch die past tense möglich, aber in diesem Beispiel sieht der Sprecher ein Kontinuum an Rezessionen vor sich, das auch noch in die Zukunft reichen wird, deshalb present perfect.

This temple, founded more than 1.200 years ago, has been burnt down several times, most recently in 1946. — Bei diesem Tempel geht es sozusagen um dessen Biografie: es hat immer wieder mal Brände gegeben, Brände gehören einfach dazu — "most recently in 1945" ist nicht mehr als ein "afterthought".

It is ... since / It has been ... since: *Es gibt einen separaten Artikel, der nur dem Thema "since" gewidmet ist. Dort wird auf Seite 10 mit Beispielen demonstriert, dass beide Formen gleichwertig nebeneinander stehen. Hier einige weitere Beispiele:*

But it's a while since a book has produced such uncertainty in me. It is only since 1997 that they have had electricity in their house. But it is years since I last needed it. But it's many years since a film has played consecutively for a whole year. It is years since we have heard these terms. It is months since the commission against corruption held a meeting. One thing is sure, however: that it is years since Paris had such a scorching summer. It is only since World War II that notable change has occurred in the ethnic pattern.

It's been five months since the family has been together. It has been nearly four years since the family has had a permanent home in Manhattan. "It's been so long since the Nets have been successful," he said. It hasn't been forever since a horse has captured the Triple Crown, it only seems that way. That means it's been 44 years since a woman has done what she did these last few days. It's been decades since a President has come into office with adult children.

Just: *"Just" im Sinn von "gerade / soeben" liegt irgendwo zwischen Gegenwart und Vergangenheit und kann daher sowohl mit der past tense als auch mit der present perfect tense verbunden werden:*

It's three p.m. but I'm having breakfast now because I just got up. We were just talking about you. The boss called just now and wants to see you immediately. I was thinking about you just now when the phone rang. She left just now, so you might still catch her outside. Matter of fact, I was just thinking about calling you. Sorry, I just crashed your car. Uh-oh, I think I just deleted all my work. A student of mine just complained (with justification, in my view) that she had to turn over a fingerprint in order to register for the bar. In fact he just gave me the information you're looking for.

I've just been having a painful interview with Mr Biffen. I have to admit that I am rather confused by what you have just been telling me. I know we've just talked about everything negative and the direction the planet's going in, but at the same time I think now might be a really great time to be an artist and to be a kid. We've just been talking about boys and bubblegum. I don't understand what you've just been telling me. I've just been watching news of the Obama victory on Chinese TV. I have just been reading Mrs Asquith's remarks upon the American papers. I've just been wondering what led you to take up this racket in the first place. The man who has just walked out is Tom. I've just found a ten-pound note in my pocket. I've just had a tooth out at the dentist's.

Last + Zeitangabe: *Meistens steht bei "last + Zeitangabe" die present perfect tense:*

Where have you been for the last two days? Now I am 31 and have known a most charming man for the last 18 months. Prices have risen sharply over the last few months. The business has expanded greatly over the last year. The resort has changed somewhat over the last few years. They've lived in this building for the last three years. The last decade has witnessed a serious rise in the levels of racism and hostility to Black and ethnic groups. Incidents of armed robbery have increased over the last few years. I've been robbed three times in the last couple of years. He's also moved three times in the last six years. The gender gap in education has significantly widened in the last generation. I want to know what you have been doing for the last two hours.

Es gibt aber auch Beispiele mit der past tense:

During the last ten years, technology delivered great benefits. Export orders improved in the last month. Complaints about the frequency of trains rose by 201% in the last year. That's what happened to us in the last two weeks. They all came here in the last four months and vanished. We've already been informed about what happened in the last few hours. He is angry because you didn't come in the last few days.

Eindeutig past tense ist "last year": In China, more wind turbines and solar panels were installed last year than in the rest of the world combined.

Interessant ist folgender Satz: The last two German elections have been won in the east. – *Die Wahlen sind bereits Vergangenheit, wieso also die present perfect tense? Der Satz stammt aus einem Artikel über die politische Situation in Deutschland, und da hat das Wahlverhalten in den östlichen Ländern Einfluss auf die Situation in der Gegenwart.*

Lately: *"Lately" schwankt zwischen present tense und present perfect tense:*

Does your husband seem different to you lately? It is true that the Indonesian birth rates are down lately due

to a brilliant recent birth control incentive program. The moral high ground seems to be getting very crowded lately. You seem really tired lately. Fashion magazines are always about some element of fantasy, but what I'm learning from readers lately is that in fashion, there is a hunger for authenticity. Is he getting enough to eat lately? But lately I am hearing from my students a troubling question: If I am in violent disagreement with the policies and character of President Trump, can I serve in his Administration? You are becoming awfully disagreeable lately. They're testing a new weapon lately, and a laser system to shoot down missiles. I still love my husband, but lately I find myself daydreaming about a strong and sexy film star. Lately many bosses are learning that there is a price to pay when you're not popular. But lately, he seems a bit restless.

She hasn't been felling too well lately. He has been getting better lately. Agnieszka has been playing very well lately. Business has been very bad lately. It seems like you've been feeling very stressed lately. Well, you've been very odd lately. Lately, nickel prices have been weak. It seems that they have been having some problems lately. She's been having a hard time at school lately. Have you been very busy lately? Have you had any other visitors just lately? You have been having bad luck lately, haven't you? Things have been getting more and more difficult lately. Lately, I have been seeing a lot of alarming interventions by government in science. Lately, many scholars have been giving more than a thought to these matters. Lately she has been selling handmade jewelry at local markets. I have lately been consulted by a lady who has tuberculosis. We haven't been doing a lot of flying lately because of the weather. I know you boys have been having it a little rough lately. I have not been seeing much of you lately.

Latterly: *"Latterly" lässt sogar drei tenses zu: present tense, past tense und present perfect tense:*

Latterly, the idiom occurs almost as often in its mutilated as in its intact form. Gunmen from the North Caucasus have been involved in occasional Islamist attacks and organised crime in Moscow since the 1990s, but latterly there is also evidence of them fighting on the pro-Russian rebel side in eastern Ukraine. Profit margins are under pressure from high oil prices and, latterly, from a pickup in wage growth. Europe is remembered as a Jewish graveyard and, latterly, is regarded as an economic basket-case [= *hoffnungsloser Fall*]. To prevent our windows from slamming shut, we latterly fold two toilet paper tubes and squeeze them under the frame. Against this background, the major productivity gains in agriculture over recent years appear *latterly* to have slowed down significantly in developed countries.

McCaskill always tried to retain the light touch but latterly felt that technology had expelled humour from forecasting. Alcoholism is an illness, not a lifestyle choice, and it was only latterly that it became more serious for him. Latterly his drinking cast a bit of doubt over his ability but I don't think it had any serious effect on his work as an MP. {They lower a bamboo pole over passing cars in the hope of collecting a few rupees for a festival celebrating Saraswati, the Hindu goddess of learning. This fertile land where the Buddha found enlightenment under the Bodhi tree was latterly overgrown by a "Jungle Raj" of corruption, crime and caste vengeance.} He was once prime minister under the now departed Mr Akaev and only latterly joined the opposition. She became more passionate about her work, particularly latterly in her current role. Latterly, he began volunteering at the local shelter, finding it very rewarding. The single male cheetah is seen often on Rhino ridge and was latterly seen with a female Thomson gazelle kill.

Latterly this tendency has been getting worse. The company has been doing well latterly. Systematic reviews have only latterly been adopted in the social sciences more generally. The whiff of scandal has latterly been swirling through the ranks of his administration. But latterly he has focused on Taiwan's awkward international status, and such issues as reforming or rewriting its constitution. Kikkoman, for example, founded in 1630 and now the world's leading maker of soy sauce, has expanded into food flavouring and, latterly, into biotech. Latterly, the country has been torn by civil war. Our neighborhood has become quieter latterly, as many families have moved away. Latterly, they have started exploring new vacation destinations beyond their usual spots. Latterly the words "in terms of" have been used to mean "in connection with" and "with reference to". The area has been used by generations of villagers for grazing their herds and latterly for collective farming.

Die Regeln der Zeitenfolge in der Vergangenheit bringen auch noch die past perfect tense ins Spiel:

In 1800 China's imperial government forbade the import of opium, which had long been used to stop diarrhoea, but had latterly graduated to recreational use. In the 1940s Australia was about 98% Anglo-Celtic; by the 1980s a few other Europeans, mostly Italians and Greeks, and latterly some Vietnamese, had started to

leaven the mix. Mubarak had latterly begun grooming his son Gamal as a potential successor. He started to avoid things he had latterly relished. Dawkins had latterly become more focused on rebutting religion than promoting science, and gave up the post, in part, so that he could pursue that passion further. She left the Army in 1997 where she had latterly been a sergeant in the Adjutant General's Corps to focus full-time on athletics. On the death of Charles IX in 1611, it was Oxenstierna who extorted from the new king, Gustav II Adolf, a charter guaranteeing the nation against the royal abuses that had latterly prevailed. A former economist, Mr Mutharika governed Malawi for eight years, but had latterly been accused of mismanaging the economy and becoming autocratic.

Long: "Long" kann mit present tense und present perfect tense kombiniert werden:

The art of writing novels is long dead everywhere except in Russia. (A. Bierce) Many years ago I talked to an old woman who is long dead now. Feudalism is long gone. This inquest is long overdue. That time is long gone. The East Bloc is long gone. That era is long over. His resignation is long overdue. You know she's not long widowed and needs a change of scene. Most of these terms are long obsolete.

That question has long stirred controversy. This has long been known. Hitzfeld has long had Swiss connections. These practices have long been illegal. Some others have long been known. Nearby salt mines have long been important. The original dwellings are long destroyed and replaced.

Long since: Bei "long since" gibt es sowohl Beispiele mit der present tense wie auch der present perfect tense:

{Middle English is not a people. It is the language spoken in the Middle Ages. All the people who used to speak it naturally are long since dead.} {Whether *Picnic at Hanging Rock* is fact or fiction the readers must decide for themselves. As the fateful picnic took place in the year nineteen hundred, and all the characters who appear in this book are long since dead, it hardly seems important.} Thankfully, those days are long since over. Those days are long since past. The bees are long since gone. They're long since extinct. Updating that code is long since overdue.

Both have long since disappeared. Lindsay Rogers has long since been forgotten. Their fears have long since been allayed. Quotas have long since been ruled illegal. His thirtieth birthday has long since passed. Drug money has long since infiltrated politics. Buddhism had long since declined in India.

Long gone: Meistens steht hier die present tense, es gibt aber auch Beispiele mit der present perfect tense:

All the invaders are long gone. The ghosts are long gone now. Now those bad times seem long gone. Rustlers and cattle drives are long gone. Thatcherism is long gone. Those laws, thankfully, are long gone. The poppy fields that once covered the fertile mountainsides are long gone. The days where Word documents consisted only of text are long gone. The days when Amazon was just an online retailer are long gone. The saloon where he grew up is long gone.

One could argue that any expectation of privacy has been long gone in this age of technology. The opportunity for a promotion has been long gone since the company downsized last year. In all fairness, those days have been long gone for some time now. Where woodland has been long gone from the landscape, similarly, mycorrhizae may be lacking in the soil. The Netherlands still exists, but Hitler has been long gone. If a species has been long gone, should we bring it back into existence if we have the ability to do so? It has been long gone from the app stores for quite a while now.

Weiters gibt es die Phrase "long over": auch hier steht meistens die present tense; die present perfect tense kommt viel seltener vor:

The Cold War is long over. Though the scandal is long over, his legacy is ubiquitous. The holidays are long over, but your desire to keep throwing parties isn't. The campaign is long over. The pay-back time is long (over 15 years). In one way the battle is long over. The scientific debate about whether human-caused global warming exists is long over. Those days, sadly, are long over. The pandemic is long over.

The time of "Antarctic fever" when people searched for the mysteries of the region has been long over. By the time I drive to work, rush hour has been long over. The event has been long over, yet people still talk about it. {A great many people I know lived in fear, and some still do today. But for most of us, COVID has been long over. At least a year ago, the vestiges had largely disappeared.} The hard beginning of October has been long over, and we've had a couple of beautiful weeks: fall used to be my favorite time of year. The times when I

was automatically skeptical whenever I stumbled upon such a one-man-band have been long over, so I was not too surprised to discover another talented musician.

Never: ⇨ 2.2.

Of late: "Of late" heißt "in letzter Zeit", und wird daher in der Regel mit der present perfect tense verbunden. Möglich ist allerdings auch die present tense:

Have you noticed anything amiss with them of late? Indeed, the only dramatic diplomatic initiative of late has come from outside the country. We need time to understand one another better than we have of late. I have been much pleased with his behaviour of late. Revenue collection forecasts have improved of late. Such attacks have been rare of late. Of late, consumers have been feeling better. But their numbers have thinned of late. Of late, matters have grown worse. He's impressed me of late. The days have been getting warmer of late.

Several recent surveys show that life in France, of late, just doesn't have the joie de vivre that it used to. Of late, though, she prefers the thimble [= Fingerhut]. The shopping continues (although less of late). {In an interview with us last fall, India's investment envoy Kamal Nath defended his nation's "calibrated approach" to reform. Of late the calibration seems off.} {Before we get into that, let's look at the case against junk bonds. They obviously are doing poorly of late.} Traffic accidents are alarmingly frequent of late. The company seems to have lost its way of late.

Once upon a time: Natürlich wird das meistens mit der past tense verbunden:

Once upon a time, biology was simple. Once upon a time, horses were ubiquitous. Once upon a time, I practiced law. Once upon a time in a faraway land there lived a princess in a big castle. Once upon a time people knew the difference between right and wrong, but nowadays nobody seems to care. Once upon a time children did what they were told.

Aber gänzlich unmöglich ist die present perfect tense auch nicht:

It's quite a small place, & very dead, but has been pretty once upon a time.

Overnight: "Overnight" funktioniert sowohl mit der past tense wie auch mit der present perfect tense:

The St Georg hospital in Leipzig said on Tuesday that the 56-year-old man, whose name has not been released, died overnight of the infection. Rudd informs the House that Anthony Albanese will take questions during question time on behalf of the ministers who exited their posts overnight. According to meteorologists, almost a foot of rain fell overnight on Zilker Park, the festival's home since 2002. Here's a roundup of the latest developments: Syria Bomb blasts hit a security compound on the edge of Damascus overnight, in the latest attack by the Islamist al-Nusra front. The Nusra Front said on its Twitter feed on Sunday that its fighters shot down the aircraft overnight near the Duhour air base. {The Hollywood sign in California was altered overnight, in what appears to be a prank. The Os were replaced with Es, meaning the iconic landmark read "Hollyweed" for a time. (1.1.2017)}

Cameron says he is glad an agreement has been reached overnight. It is well heated, because it has become bitterly cold overnight. Google hasn't turned evil overnight; it's just grown up. Rain has spread overnight with more through the day, so don't forget the raincoat before getting out. The Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service says a bushfire on Moreton Island off Brisbane has spread overnight. You can have one plan for your working day, but when you get in your office you must adapt to whatever has happened overnight. It slowly dawns on Bill that something truly terrible has happened overnight. {In England, there has been a sudden mass introduction of otters, which understandably are both ravenous and probably curious about their new surroundings – possibly killing large fish as a means of establishing dominance in their new home? So nature's balance has been altered overnight by the hand of man.}

Interessant ist dieser Satz: A tornado has hit 24 homes and a bolt of lightning has struck two properties as severe weather battered Wales overnight. – Der Tornado, der Blitzeinschlag und das Unwetter gehören zur selben Zeitspanne – wieso also zwei verschiedene tenses? Nun, das Unwetter ist schon vorbei, und die present perfect tense für den Tornado und den Blitz sind dem Format der Radio-Nachrichten geschuldet; die wollen immer aktuell sein, daher present perfect tense.

Over the years: Hier ist nur das "over the years" aus der Sicht der Gegenwart gemeint, und da sind sowohl present perfect also auch past tense möglich:

I've coached youth sports a bit over the years. We've changed over the years. How has rhetoric shifted over the years? Carnival has become safer over the years. Over the years, that gap has narrowed. Much has changed over the years. The effort has broadened over the years. We lost touch over the years.

I developed this technique over the years. Coaching strategy changed appreciably over the years. They resonated with me over the years. I learned that over the years. But over the years it got excruciating. I got stronger over the years. We kept up over the years.

Past (noun): "in the past": *Das sieht aus wie ein Signalwort für die past tense (die heißt ja nicht ohne Grund "past" tense), kann aber auch mit der present perfect tense verbunden werden:*

{Nowadays, clock time measures events. Yet in the past, events measured time.} In the past, victims were rarely molested. In the past, the problem was infection. In the past there was scant interest. {In the past, sins were silenced. People in high places were protected from public embarrassment.} We should discontinue doing as little as we did in the past. In the past we took freedom and democracy for granted. In the past, little value was seen in preserving the swamps, bogs and marshes that prevented realtors from developing land into lucrative real estate. In the developed world, we are not dying from the kind of infectious diseases that were prevalent in the past. In the past, if you were sick, they did everything to hospitalize you. In the past we had a bad system – now we have none.

Weil die present perfect tense ausgerechnet mit der Zeitangabe "in the past" so unlogisch erscheint, folgt hier eine größere Anzahl von Beispielen:

Many minority groups have been discriminated against in the past. {Many micro-managers are new to management and don't fully understand how to empower their team members. Some have been burned in the past and are overcompensating to keep it from happening again.} Supermarkets have been criticised in the past for selling padded bras aimed at children. Mr Green has been jailed in the past. I have done a good deal of business in Germany in the past. (C. Doyle) We've risen to even bigger challenges in the past. In the U.S., some bishops in the past have declined to offer Communion to elected officials who favor abortion. In the past, Beijing has argued that the Obama administration's "pivot" to Asia looked to it like a strategy to contain China. In the past, war or a direct threat to national security has shaken America out of its complacency. (Obama) The French have in the past focused on nuclear energy. You have already made this decision many times in the past. The U.S. has behaved responsively in the past. "Authorities" have made mistakes in the past. We've all had experiences with unfair offers in the past. Each of the five people I have named has at some time in the past asked me for a loan. Surely hemp has been grown in Afghanistan in the past. I'm afraid I've set her a poor example in the past. It is true that we have disagreed about many things in the past. In the past I've been reluctant to voice any political opinions. In the past, hundreds of thousands have marched in Mexico against crime and corruption. In the past, hundreds of thousands have marched in Mexico against crime and corruption. Accidents have happened in the past, and humans will err again. In the past, these companies have gone to great lengths to gain access to the data. French soldiers have killed and died in Africa in the past. We have been getting things wrong in the past. But I've always had table number one in the past! My own feeling is that in the past, people have been put off more by the packaging [of the Christian faith] than the message. In the past these raids have lasted a few weeks. {They then asked her brother, who came with her, "Have you contributed to her support in the past?" He responded, "No, she did not need any assistance."} This has happened in the past. We've made mistakes in the past. Such attempts have failed in the past. He's done that in the past. What strategies have worked in the past? I've done it in the past. And we must do so differently than we have in the past. Now, let's forget about what has happened in the past. In the past, Earth science has rarely been a required subject in our nation's primary and secondary schools. I personally have smoked marijuana in the past and still cannot figure out why it's not legal to smoke. In the past this usage has been considered vulgar. In the past, the Bureau of Indian affairs has negotiated the leases between tribes and private companies developing reservation resources. Relatives of Mr Green have been jailed in the past. The film-maker has been criticised in the past for being rather simplistic. {In the past the raids have lasted a few weeks. This time they have been backed by artillery from the Guinean side.} Miss Sinclair has been accustomed to doing these things in the past with impunity. The Guardian has in the past published her work. In the past he has often been short of money. Blame for Africa's ills: has in the past been wrongly laid at the doorstep of

foreigners. In the past he has often been short of money. The method has worked in the past. You are my friend and you have helped me in the past. There is no doubt morale has been poor in the past. Both have contributed to books I've written in the past. The test for finding a reasonable apprehension of bias has challenged courts in the past. The medal has been awarded in the past to administrative/clerical staff and employees involved in more 'operational' roles. In the past, the biggest threat to the tiger has been poachers and bone traders. The woman has a history of mental illness and has been hospitalised in the past. You cannot change what has happened in the past. In the past I've sometimes found it difficult to believe such a story. In the past companies have been far more secretive than they needed to be. The author shows how the English have thought themselves in the past. We have made mistakes in the past.

Auch "in the recent past" lässt sowohl past tense als auch present perfect tense zu:

In the recent past, companies learned they could create better products more efficiently with the full mental participation of their employees. It may be something that started in the recent past, or it may have started a long time ago. Those images contain convincing evidence that lakes were present on Mars in the recent past.

It has become respectable to say so only in the quite recent past. In the recent past, our students have completed internships with Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Oregon Environmental Council ... Kilauea is not exploding now, but it has done so in a small way in the recent past and in a big way during the past hundreds to thousands of years.

Past (adjective): "in the past + noun (Zeitangabe)": *Das sieht aus wie ein Signalwort für die past tense (die heißt ja nicht ohne Grund "past" tense), kann aber auch mit der present perfect tense verbunden werden:*

Several parts of Iraq witnessed new attacks and explosions in the past hours leaving two US soldiers and 20 Iraqis killed. In the past week, the General Accounting Office blasted the administration for failing to crack down on terrorist financing. In conversations with Middle Eastern diplomats in the past month, he expressed grave concern about Israel. The number of teachers wanting to be sent overseas doubled in the past year. Marijuana use in the past year decreased significantly among 10th graders, reaching its lowest rate since 1995. You told us that a hundred times in the past two days. During the past twenty-four years the number of people over the age of eighty-five grew almost six times more rapidly than the overall population.

Ebenso: Over the past several years, the readiness of the Army has been deteriorating.

The precipitation has been all snow in the past hour and the temperature remained constant. In the past week 300 individuals have reportedly died from hunger and various diseases. More than 60 suspected al-Qaeda figures have been arrested in the past weeks in Pakistan. In the past month, archaeologist have uncovered a cylindrical wooden box containing a hoard of coins minted by Ptolemy VI, King of Egypt. In the past months we have had several offenses that have occurred when homeowners have left their garage doors open and their vehicles unlocked. How much time have you lost to computer viruses in the past year? Malaysia has undergone vast changes in the past year. Granny has got a little deaf in the past year. In the past decade, the population has fallen by 20 per cent. This is my focus, and this is what I have been doing in the past years. Find out everything he's been doing in the past five years. I have in the past few months learned what is really important. More than 500 people have died in the past month. The number of cyclist deaths in London has been dropping steadily in the past two decades. In the past year, experts have begun recommending that men stop getting routine PSA screening tests for prostate cancer. Over the past several years, artificial intelligence systems have started surpassing humans in a number of domains. They have arrived here in the past decade. Over the past several years, the readiness of the Army has been deteriorating. Jobs in the service sector have steadily risen from 314.000 to 464.000 in the past 10 years.

In the past year man has been punished for his utter disregard for nature with a spate of natural disasters.

[Written in January of the next year] The situation I've been seeing over the past week is almost a carbon copy of what I witnessed when I was here last, in 2012. In the past few weeks American opinion seems to have been rewriting some of the rules of public conduct. In the past the police have taken money from the smugglers to turn a blind eye. The problem has mushroomed over the past 10 years. The past year has been riddled with prophecies that didn't come true. The past month has been abuzz with speculation about Elena Ferrante's real identity. {Perhaps one of the most sobering warnings that is presented in the New Testament comes from Peter's second epistle addressed to those of faith. Over the past month or so, I have gained more of an

appreciation of this epistle than I have in times past.} In the past year I have been burgled three times; my girlfriend's car was stolen, her handbag snatched. A string of companies have closed their doors in the past year.

Previously: "Previously" kann mit der past tense und mit der present perfect tense kombiniert werden.

Technology often pushes the bound of what we previously thought was impossible. Previously, the fall in fertility rates that began in the 1980s in many African countries was expected to continue but the most recent data shows this has not happened. {This week, according to his tweets, Jon Wilks is off to New York for a meeting of the Friends of Syria on Friday. He previously served as British ambassador in Yemen.} The six directors include Rupert Pennant-Rea, the former editor of the Economist and deputy governor of the Bank of England; Stephen Grabiner, the venture capitalist who previously worked in the Telegraph's commercial department; and Veronica Wadley, who was the editor of the Evening Standard until the Lebedev takeover. You should now be able to access sites that were previously blocked. We are now selling products that customers previously could not find.

You may wonder why much of the advice in this book appears to contradict what you have **previously** heard. Anthony Fisher, the archbishop of Sydney, says his predecessor would return to Australia if asked, adding that Pell has conceded errors were made in the handling of child abuse cases and has apologised previously. Saunders, who has previously managed Wrexham, Doncaster and Wolves, finished the season in interim charge of Crawley but was unable to prevent them from being relegated to League Two. Iran's judicial authorities have previously denied accusations of juvenile executions, but according to HRW, the country has executed at least 10 juvenile offenders since 2009. Gillespie speaks in glowing terms of Farbrace, a 46-year-old who has previously worked with the England women's and Under-19s teams, and had a previous spell with Sri Lanka as assistant to the Australian Trevor Bayliss from 2007-09. The group, which has previously organised sit-ins at Vodafone shops and at upmarket grocer Fortnum & Mason, will be meeting outside St Paul's in London on Saturday morning under the banner "no cuts, no tax-dodging".

Recently: "Recently" lässt sowohl die past tense als auch die present perfect tense zu:

Someone else I talked to recently said that he couldn't believe it was true. I was talking to one of them recently. Selfridges recently announced that it was getting rid of gendered floors and would just have three floors of fashion merchandised together. He said he had been adopted at birth, and he recently returned to Moscow after living for a few years in the Midwest. Arundhati Roy, the Booker prize-winning author, recently accused Mahatma Gandhi, India's revered independence leader, of discrimination and called for institutions bearing his name to be renamed because of his attitude to caste. When Nopi head chef Nicole Pisani recently left her job, it wasn't to go to another restaurant, but to run the kitchen at Gayhurst Community School in Hackney. Recently, children were being separated from their parents after they crossed the U.S. border. My home was recently burglarized and my valuable coin collection was stolen. I recently had my bike checked by a reputable dealer prior to taking a cross-country trip. A recently conducted survey found one in five employees hate their job, and 22 percent of workers hate their boss.

Interest in education investments has exploded recently. I've written a few songs recently that are different from anything I've written before. (B. Springsteen) Recently they have discovered a comet. We'd love to hear your responses to these stories and any others you've read recently. Some countries, such as South Korea, have recently announced carbon taxes as a way of making the use of fossil fuels more expensive. Only recently have many lawmakers begun to give Snowden credit for kickstarting the debate. Recently, we've been busy working on a project in the Netherlands. Recently, they have not been doing well. Recently, Mr D. has worked on a futuristic novel set in a subterranean prison. I'm afraid I have been hearing some strange things about you recently. Recently, there has been a little-noticed shift. Recently, I have been seeing ads for over-the-counter products that claim to relieve migraine. She hasn't been selling many paintings recently. I've been feeling very depressed recently. Recently, his costs have been rising and his orders have been shrinking. It has clearly been used very recently. Recently Col. Gadafy has been keeping a low profile. What you should know if you have been recently diagnosed with prostate cancer. She hasn't been selling many paintings recently. Recently, his costs have been rising and his orders have been shrinking.

Bemerkenswert ist das folgende Beispiel: {I've lived quite a good life until recently. The last year has been less satisfactory for me because I couldn't do things.} "**Until recently**" ließe doch wohl eher die past tense

erwarten, noch dazu, wo im zweiten Satz noch ein ganzes Jahr vor der Gegenwart interpoliert wird. Es gibt auch noch genug weitere Beispiele für "until recently" + present perfect tense:

Until recently this has worked. {These two theories have formed the bedrock of modern physics. Unfortunately, until recently they have proved to be inconsistent.} The world's religions have until recently neglected the growing environmental crisis. In practice, French interests have until recently still taken precedence over democracy and human rights. These inconvenient facts have until recently been met largely with silence. Governments did not listen, and prime ministers and presidents have until recently continued to ignore his wise statement. And yet progress has, until recently, been painfully slow. The Russian community in London has until recently been regarded by the natives with wry amusement.

Recent + noun: *Hier kommen nicht nur die past tense, sondern auch die present perfect tense und auch die present tense infrage:*

Both updated their apps in recent weeks. {Foreign fighters used the two towns as waypoints when they entered the "caliphate" and when they travelled back to Turkey. Isis lost both in recent weeks.} In recent weeks we neglected that duty. In recent weeks, journalists questioned these tactics. I followed the campaign in recent weeks. Georgian and Polish troops departed in recent weeks. Both Coulson and Brooks were arrested in recent weeks. A University of Houston assistant professor is among the foreign scholars whose visas were revoked in recent weeks. I traveled to the region twice in recent years. That reputation suffered badly in recent years. It is sitting on a tidy stack of cash and avoided overstaffing in recent years. In recent months, Beijing persuaded Panama and the Dominican Republic to sever ties with Taiwan. Almost every baby born in hospital in recent years was injected with antibiotics. In recent years, a new generation of expats arrived here looking for work and adventure. In recent weeks the debate over the referendum was acrimonious and bitter. In recent years, Venezuela refused to accept regular deportation flights from the U.S., and so the new Trump administration looked for nations willing to take expelled Venezuelans.

The war has escalated in recent weeks. Trading has surged in recent weeks. In recent weeks, those odds have shifted. In recent weeks he has outdone himself. However, fighting has intensified in recent weeks. The scales manager has seen sales rise by about 5 percent in recent weeks. Chivas [= soccer team] have been improving in recent weeks. We've been following this trend closely in recent weeks. The mood in Denmark has swung to law and order in recent years. In recent weeks, more than a dozen men have been arrested. Dozens of women have died in recent years from following this tradition. Meanwhile nine private airlines have started up in recent years. In recent weeks, ChatGPT has been hailed as a "learning tool" – but is this really the case? In recent months, nearly three dozen officials have been arrested. It was only one of several knife attacks that have shocked Japan in recent days. The number of adolescents who have sought to medically change their sex has been skyrocketing in recent years. Fires across the western U.S. have been getting worse in recent years. In recent years, scientist have been finding that the biological rift between men and women is larger than previously thought. In recent years, vets have been finding more and more cases of tuberculosis in cows.

Traffic is flowing faster in recent weeks along highways where the speed limit was lowered to 70 kilometres per hour. In recent weeks, Roquefort feels menaced again. In recent weeks, however, that momentum appears to have slowed. Cryptocurrency prices are down sharply in recent weeks and not expected to rebound soon. Trump and Biden are raking in millions in recent weeks with the help of elite fundraisers. She says her pay is down in recent years. In recent months a stream of news indicates a vigorous recovery. More widely held in recent years is the estimate that more than 50% are illegal. In recent years, far more teachers give emphasis to the communication and expression of ideas, feelings and experiences. A number of manufacturing index reports in recent days continue to point to positive signs for the nation's economy.

Since: ⇒ *Eintrag am Ende des Einschubs (wegen des Umfangs)*

So far: *"So far" sieht aus wie ein Signalwort für die present perfect tense, kann aber auch mit der present tense und mit der past tense kombiniert werden:*

So far, the students have avoided confrontation. So far the gamble has paid off. So far the results have been mixed. So far, the policy has failed. So far, the audience has been responsive. So far the group has raised \$44m. So far he hasn't said anything. Let me see what you've accomplished so far this week. It makes me proud of what we have achieved so far. This was probably the toughest thing we have done so far. You realize this is only

what we've found so far. I mean, so far, she's come up with nothing. It was really the best lobster we have ever eaten so far. I would like to thank everyone who has helped us so far.

So far, the trends are positive. So far, the evidence is encouraging. So far, the cancer is in check. So far, the evidence seems mixed. So far the data suggest otherwise. So far the news is very good. So far, changes are being instituted gradually. It sounds promising so far. Looks like you're doing a pretty good job so far. And so far he's the only one who needs to know. The image is now much brighter and looks good so far. Further languages aren't planned so far, but you never know ... The time of separation between the two parts is unknown so far. she seems to be getting along with everyone so far. The project is going well so far, touch wood nothing goes wrong now. So far, the police do not suspect foul play. So far the drug is thought not to have any adverse effects. So far the rate of production doesn't equal the demand.

Die Tendenz des American English, eine present perfect tense durch eine past tense zu ersetzen, kann man auch hier finden: {I instantly got addicted to this cool program. It's the best image organizer tool I found so far.} Unfortunately, I came to nothing in this regard so far. {Hello, my dog chewed our tv remote and so far i only saw one of the batteries. Im not sure if he swallowed the other. What symptoms should i look for to know if he swallowed one of the batteries?}

This morning: *In der weitaus überwiegenden Anzahl der Fälle steht bei "this morning" die past tense, aber wenn die Aussage zu einem Zeitpunkt getroffen wird, wo "morning" noch andauert, ist die present perfect tense angebracht. In diesem Fall entscheidet also die Uhr über die tense: Bis etwa zur Mittagszeit present perfect tense, dann past tense:*

Everything went right this morning. I saw her this morning. I told Steve this morning. Sarah died this morning. Nothing changed this morning. It probably happened this morning. I looked for him this morning, but he was gone. I was surprised to see you in the circle this morning. Actually, I was hoping we could discuss something this morning. Something you said this morning, it it really stuck with me. It was only this morning I found out you were coming here. I was a little surprised that it rained this morning. You won't believe what I saw on the bus this morning. I woke up this morning with a bad taste in my mouth.

It's the fourth bookstore I've been to this morning. Those are the first sensible words I've heard this morning. I have only seen one or two young people this morning but the elderly people have been out to vote. Five people this morning have asked me the same question. I've spoken with 10 or 12 people this morning who worked with him and every one of them is very sad about this. It has been very interesting to hear so much consensus this morning. {I've been busy this morning doing this and that. This afternoon I'm heading out to see my youngest daughter.}

This + week / month / year etc.: *Bei "this" + Zeitangabe sind sowohl past tense als auch present perfect tense möglich:*

Two hovercraft that have carried cars and passengers from Dover to France for more than 30 years were taken out of service **this week**. Listen to these texts that she sent just this week. {Sorry I didn't make the study group this week – I wasn't well. Can someone lend me their notes please?} I am so grateful for everything that happened during this week. It just arrived this week and everyone is going crazy for it.

There was a wonderful story in the newspapers **this month** about horses. She noted the balance she owed on her credit card this month. She was thrilled to see a bonus in her pay packet this month. All told, she read five novels this month, enjoying every single one. He was grateful to finally pay off the car loan this month. She felt quite close to achieving her fitness goals this month. We need to pinch pennies this month because of unexpected car repairs. The fashion magazine featured the celebrity on its cover this month. She felt relieved when her menstrual period arrived on schedule this month.

We had snow in May **this year**. The company passed the £6 million milestone this year. I lost my job earlier this year. He missed three attendances this year. She qualified as a doctor this year. The number of new students decreased from 210 to 160 this year. We're planning to go back next year to buy all the things we couldn't afford this year. She graduated from Harvard this year. In a neighbouring town three women were throttled, knifed or beaten to death by their husbands this year.

This fall, the second friend died in a car accident in ambiguous circumstances. Then suddenly this fall, the Federal Highway Administration called representatives of all affected areas to Washington for a meeting. Highland Park Senior's stadium athletic field closed this fall due to rainy summer. The company completed the

acquisition this fall. His new workshop finally got a colorful coat of paint this fall. He practiced his skills for the still hunt *[(Pirsch)jagd]* every weekend this fall.

Let me see what you've accomplished so far **this week**. You should put your feet up; you've worked really hard this week. I'm very sorry for how this week has panned out. What has happened this week is actually hard to quantify. You've not been behaving like a sick man these last few weeks.

I'm quite happy with how everything worked out **this month**. {Here are a few of my makeup and skincare favorites from the month of June! Let me know what you've been loving this month!} I have read six books from that series this month. With the drought, the lake has become increasingly shallow this month. The stock market has been very up-and-down this month, confusing investors everywhere. Two contrasting approaches to Ibsen translation have appeared this month. Renewed calls have come this month from health professionals for us to reduce the amount of salt we consume.

The university has achieved all its goals **this year**. We've appointed three new teachers this year. Our profits have more than doubled this year. She's had an increased workload this year. We've had a bumper harvest of apples this year. He's ridden six winners so far this year. This year we have seen the retirements of several senior personnel. Our share of the market has decreased sharply this year. Today's victory is the fifth that the Irish team has chalked up this year.

This fall, Ukrainians have been driving their cars down country roads, getting out and walking deep into the forest for the world's most socially distanced pastime: mushroom hunting. The knee-length hemline has become very popular this fall.

This is the first time: *Nach "this is the first time" steht meistens die present perfect tense. Möglich sind allerdings auch present tense und past tense:*

This is the first time I am working with nonprofessionals. This is the first time I lose a job. This is the first time I have any muscle injury in my career. This is the first time I lose a job. This is the first time the book gets really interesting. This is the first time we're playing against each other. This is the first time we're not feeling success. This is the first time his fellowship with his heavenly Father is broken and his oneness with the Father is shattered. This is the first time a guest is featured on this show for the second time!

This is the first time I saw that. This is the first time I heard of the A.C.L.U. This is the first time I even came close to putting four rounds together. This is the first time someone took this head on. This is the first time I saw him hurt. This is the first time they appeared. This is the first time he captured it on video. After an 8-mile run this weekend, a first-time, enthusiastic marathoner-in-training on my team confessed to me, "This is the first time I was bored during a run."

This is the first time I have heard about it. This is the first time I have been here. This is the first time I haven't had a dog. This is the first time they've all disappeared like that. This is the first time we've heard anything like that. This is the first time I have ever been interviewed. This is the first time I've been back since. This is the first time we've seen the big helicopters. This is the first time I've gotten extra help. This is the first time I've ever told anyone. This is the first time that a woman has been appointed to the post.

Andere tenses bleiben in dieser Untersuchung außer Betracht: This is the first time it will affect safety. This is the first time St. Joseph County will have a post-election audit done.

Today: *Selbstverständlich findet man "today" mit der present tense und einer future tense, aber auch past tense und present perfect tense sind möglich:*

Today he had to admit that not only has he missed his debt target but that growth will be substantially lower than he forecast. The Queen today invested the Duke of Edinburgh with the insignia of a Knight of the Order of Australia at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace said in a short statement. Opposition politician Anwar Ibrahim scored a bigger than expected victory in a by-election today, boosting his chances of becoming prime minister. Britain's biggest pharmaceutical company is preparing to sell £3bn worth of swine flu drugs this year, it emerged today. It was a huge win today. He's always talking about something or other that happened at work today. The coffee was fair strong today, just the way I like it. He received too many compliments today; it made him feel quite shy. I harvested some romaine lettuce today, and it smelled amazing. Their performance was decent today, but tomorrow they can do even better. He seldom calls in sick, but today was an exception. I need to calculate how many calories I burned today. He usually turns up late, but today he arrived right on

time. Most days she drives, but today it was the other way round. You will not believe what happened at work today. I wrote three letters already today and I'll probably write a few more.

A US drone strike has killed at least six suspected al-Qaida militants in southern Yemen today, officials said. Now then, let's review what we've learned in today's lesson. What has happened today? He doesn't think much has changed today. That's basically what Nokia has said today. He has seen today what we are capable of. Registration for complimentary tickets has ended today. Nothing he has promised today would actually reduce immigration. I have just been in touch with our Foreign Minister in Sweden who has spoken about what has emerged today. These tensions have resurfaced today. The patches have arrived today and fully meet our expectations.

Tonight: *"Tonight" lässt sowohl die past tense als auch die present perfect tense zu:*

"Nicola Sturgeon won that debate tonight," said Sam, 27, who is wavering between Labour and the Tories. To be honest the performance tonight was not what we would have expected but the players gave every solitary ounce they had. Tonight we had a job to do. Speaking to the press after the ceremony, Queen Latifah said: "To be able to do something special for people, to change someone's life is what I was able to do tonight." Tonight after eight hours of questioning Anwar was taken to hospital for tests. Tonight the cards fell for me. Wasn't tonight the most exciting night of your whole life? Maybe tonight the result was better than our display, but we are very happy to leave here with a win which puts us on the right track to go through. The attack was then reported to the police and tonight the attackers turned themselves in (they were already identified at the scene). We saw tonight we have a group of players capable of winning the World Cup. Did he come tonight?

{ "I love this state. The reason I love this state is because of its people, and friends, tonight they have chosen hope over fear," he told a cheering room of supporters at the Sofitel Hotel. } { Tonight, the people of New South Wales have given us that mandate. And to them, we say thank you. } { I have heard some talk tonight about Labor being back in the game for the election in 2019. Well, let me give you this assurance, in four years we'll be back in those seats we lost. } I'm feeling fairly confident that as a result of what we've seen tonight there will be a real movement outside of parliament, a real anger for people wanting voting reform. Tonight the Knesset has voted overwhelmingly to annex the West Bank, a symbolic move that would be illegal under international law. { Zack Wheeler has been outstanding tonight. The Phillies offense has not been. } Tonight we have sentenced thousands more to the same fate. Tonight we have heard from the voters, and I respect the will of the people who are frustrated with the dysfunction in our budget system.

When: *Man könnte glauben, dass "when" – weil es ja nach einem Zeitpunkt in der Vergangenheit fragt – automatisch ein Signalwort für die past tense sein müsste. Das ist auch meistens der Fall.*

Es gibt aber eine Ausnahme: Wenn in der Frage Verwunderung / Ungläubigkeit / Misstrauen mitspielen, wird nicht die past tense, sondern die present perfect tense verwendet:

When has the weather been this nice in February? When has feedback on your performance helped you improve? When has it been used? When has anything like that happened before? When has the line been crossed? When has any hot subject lately not been politicized? When have I been the predator? When have you learned something online? When have we been asked or consulted about our population? When have the French not been obsessed with American comics? When have you known a bank to do that? When have you followed your passion? When have you stood up and fought for them? When have you experienced grace and mercy?

Öfters wird die Verwunderung etc. noch durch "ever" verstärkt:

When has he ever been content? But when has that ever happened? When has insurance ever gone down? But when has that ever stopped us? When has that ever happened in post-colonial Africa? And yet when has it ever felt so urgently true? But when has that ever been a crime in Hollywood? But when has it ever been any different? When has nature ever "sorted itself out"? When has he ever not been sober? But when has that ever made any difference? When has he ever done anything courageous? When has free shit ever been turned down? When have I ever been wrong? When have you ever read a great parody? When have you ever witnessed a notable act of kindness? When have you ever seen a magician perform? When have they ever said anything you remember? When have you ever known him not to campaign? "When have you ever drunk nail polish?" chuckles Chamberlain. When have government cost estimates ever been correct? When have prices

ever gone down and stayed down? "When have we ever done something like that?" Kagan asked. When have you ever seen someone wearing lederhosen?

Oder durch ein anderes Wort:

But when has anyone actually done this?

When have you ever, really, sorted your life out? When has research really benefitted the museum?

But when has success just dropped in anyone's lap?

When have you ever used such a strategy, if ever?

Eine besondere Betrachtung verdient "since when":

1. Das temporale "since when" wird kombiniert mit der present perfect tense:

Since when has this been going on? Since when have you become so hard and cynical? What arrangements apply in Greece and since when have they applied? Since when have ladies been allowed to play the flute? Since when has he been missing? She wrote a month ago, since when we've heard nothing. That was written in 1946, since when the education system has undergone great changes. Since when have you been a member of the party? {"Don't be afraid to denounce!" Since when have we heard that from a Pope?} Since when has that been going on?

Oder mit der past tense:

I need to know since when we started lying to each other. Since when did you start wearing cologne to work? The campus has changed a lot since when I taught here.

Sogar die present tense ist möglich:

Every now and then people ask me since when I photograph. Date and time – since when does the problem appear? Did it work before, and since when are you experiencing this issue? {Who are indigenous people of England? Since when do they live in England and what are their known traditions?} Since when do you guys know each other? Since when do they charge a processing fee? Since when is the sweet mustard available? Since when is the data center in operation?

2. "Since when" kann aber auch Ungläubigkeit ausdrücken und ist dann nicht temporal gemeint. In diesem Fall gibt es vier Möglichkeiten:

2.1. present tense:

Since when is that so important? But since when is money just money? Since when is having relevant experience disqualifying? Since when is ignorance an excuse? Since when are such monopolies legal? Since when are Egyptians not white? Since when is breast cancer ever ignored? Since when does anybody care what I have to say? Since when do you have a problem with that? Since when are you the only one that makes decisions around here? But since when does one need a separate post for this task? Since when do you answer the phone in that fashion? Since when is a soldier punished for following the rules? Since when do you believe the promises of politicians? Since when are you a girl who does it the easy way? Since when does a son call his mother by her first name? I mean, baby, since when do you care what he thinks? Well, since when isn't my husband up to a challenge? Since when do we keep secrets from each other? Since when do you shy away from confrontation? Since when do you say no to lasagne? {Oh, yeah? Since when are you in charge around here?} But since when does the world listen to Africans? Since when does everybody play by the rules? But since when is that so important? Since when is an emoji a word? Since when is ignorance an excuse? Since when do we use fence wire for that? {Since when do they send out text messages like this!? I've never seen this before.} {Well then I noticed that none of the items were marked as gluten free. Really? Eggs... salad... since when do they have gluten in them? So I asked. The waitress wasn't sure so she went back and asked one of the cooks.}

2.2. present perfect tense:

Since when has this ever mattered to America's ruling elites? But since when has fairness stopped a joke? Since when has that been the rule? And since when has Afghanistan been in 'the tropics'? But since when has commerce worried about issues of taste? Since when have the two skills been separate? {"Since when have you been so fierce?" – "Sorry," she said.} But since when have record labels become so generous? Since when have teenagers been mentally stable? Since when have we grown so small and intolerant? Since when has upholding the law been undemocratic? Excuse me, but since when have you been a vegetarian? I mean, since when have they ever shared their drugs? Since when have facts been important to journalists covering stories

involving Muslims? Since when have teen-agers wanted to spend more time with their parents? "Since when have I cared what the media says?" he wrote. Since when has this ever mattered to America's ruling elites? Since when has it been the BBC's job to destroy our illusions? Since when has Hollywood let the facts get in the way of a good story?

2.3. *past tense*:

Since when was communication so exhausting? Since when was modesty in vogue? Since when was television like real life? But since when was sex itself straightforward? {I think the world's gone brain-dead. Since when did everybody identify as they, them?} Since when did everybody get so woke and sensitive? Since when did race equal skin color? Come on, since when did you start caring about the world? Since when did animals become the standard for human behaviour? Since when were sentiment and moral denunciation sufficient ingredients of a policy? Come on, since when did we ever plan things out? Since when did saving the Earth become such a bad thing? Since when did he ever listen to me? Since when did you have the right to tell me what to do?

2.4. *conditional*:

Since when would an ambassador deliver personal messages to you? {Since when would you consider this a meal on a flight with a seat in First Class? What is happening to air travel?} Since when would an 18-month-old be so picky with her choice of clothes? Since when would the Democrats fight for people's well-being? Since when would my frugal parents spend two thousand dollars on a dress? Since when would any industry willingly embrace irksome financial control of their cash flow? Since when would SHE know what a 'bob' is?

Man vergleiche auch den separaten Artikel "Since" – dort beginnt das Kapitel über "since when" auf Seite 25.

Yet: *Das sieht aus wie ein Signalwort für die present perfect tense ("schon" bzw. "noch nicht" bezeichnen ja einen Zeitraum, der bis zur Gegenwart reicht), kann aber auch mit der past tense kombiniert werden (und mit der present tense):*

Yet + present perfect:

No motive for the killing has yet been established. I haven't had a chance to unpack yet. The wound has not yet healed. The dustmen haven't collected the rubbish yet. Have they reached a decision yet? The Congress has not yet passed the bill. I haven't spoken to her yet. Despite concerted effort, no one has yet succeeded in cloning a monkey. No such policy has yet been attempted. It may be the best thing I've done yet. Is not this the strangest and most inexplicable thing that has ever yet been observed? (C. Doyle) Have you done your maths homework yet? The policy has not yet brought any tangible benefits.

Yet + past tense:

Fanned fires and forced love never did well yet. No man ever yet became great by imitation.

Im American English ist "yet + past tense" gebräuchlich:

Did those painters arrive yet? Did you book your car yet, sir? Did you call your mother yet? {Where's Wally? Did you spot him yet?}

Yet + present tense:

I can't go to the door – I'm not dressed yet. This new drug's potency is not yet known. The baby can't feed itself yet. I'm not ready for married life yet. No one knows yet how many were killed by the freak waves. I'm afraid you can't have it back just yet. Are you finished with my tools yet? I can't drive yet, I'm still learning. The cause of the fire is not yet known. The language laboratory is not operational yet. Are you ready to order yet?

Die Präposition bzw. Konjunktion "since" lässt viele Anwendungsmöglichkeiten zu und verdient sich mehr Platz, daher wird sie am Ende des Einschubs positioniert:

1. "Since" + Nomen (oder Zeitangabe), dazu im Hauptsatz present perfect tense:

He has not ridden a bike since his accident. The dog has been David's loyal companion since 2022. Since the success of the Breitling Orbiter [= balloon trip around the world in 1999] the company's order books have been filling up at a record pace. The rain has been continuous since this morning. Children have been routinely immunized against polio since 1958. He's been deaf and dumb since birth. I have been there many times since

the war. I haven't heard from him since last January. Her father has been missing since September 1992. Since childhood, her life has revolved around tennis. She's been off work since Tuesday. People have been trying to manipulate each other since the beginning of time. Since then the story has been retold many times. He has made the United States his primary home since 1988.

So lernt man es in der Schule.

Möglich ist aber auch die present tense im Hauptsatz; die folgenden Sätze zeigen, dass es eine unzulässige Verkürzung ist, im Schulunterricht "since" als "Signalwort" für die present perfect tense zu "verkaufen":

Since then I know nothing of him. (O. Wilde) {As the big door swung behind me I heard the sound of a roar of laughter that went up to the roof of the bank. Since then I use a bank no more. I keep my money in my pocket and my savings in silver dollars in a sock.} (Stephen Leacock) Since April 1996 the police authority in Scotland comprises four joint police boards made up of local councillors. Since the end of the cold war, diplomatic news is no longer as compelling as it was. We in Australia are going through a debate about mandatory jail terms for young offenders since the suicide of a 15-year-old Aboriginal boy imprisoned for stealing. In Britain, since about 1950 a bow-legged man is called a cowboy, because he looks as if he has been doing a lot of riding. Current production is down 60 percent since 2006. The company went public in September 2009; the stock is up some 50% since the offering. It is so difficult to get people since the war. (A. Christie) Stocks are up 20% since their low in March 2009. HP's stock is down 5% since Mark Hurd's departure. Everything is changing round here since the takeover. Since his death in 1968, M. L. King's vision lives on through his speeches. Since her birth I feel an emotional reaction that makes me weep easily. {"You've grown", Grandfather said. "Nearly an inch, I should say." – "More," Jody boasted. "Where they mark me on the door, I'm up more than an inch since Thanksgiving even."} Since last August, virtual-payment firms must connect to a central government clearing house.

Ein Sonderfall: Since the legalization of marijuana in Colorado in 1012, crime is down, job growth is up, and robust sales have yielded more than \$17 million in tax revenue. – Hier finden wir "since" + 2 x present tense, aber auch 1 x present perfect tense in einem einzigen Satz.

Sogar ein conditional ist prinzipiell denkbar:

Since time immemorial no self-respecting Arab would miss his daily quailula (= *Siesta*).

2. "Since" + Nebensatz in der past tense, dazu im Hauptsatz present perfect tense:

I have known him since I was a child. I have loved you ever since I met you. I have been reading since I was six. Two weeks have gone since I wrote the first sentence. It has only rained twice since we arrived. She has lost weight since her husband disappeared. Forty years have passed away since they met. They've been best friends since they were children. He's been unbearable since he won that prize. He's got rather plump since I last saw him. He has been an orphan since he was five. Two weeks have lapsed since they arrived in Paris. He has had nothing to eat since he came here. Since their original owners left them between the eighth and tenth centuries, these ruins have remained in remarkably good condition for more than 1.000 years. He's put on 20 pounds since I last saw him. The place has changed since I was last here.

So lernt man es in der Schule.

Möglich ist aber auch eine present tense im Hauptsatz; die folgenden Sätze zeigen, dass es eine unzulässige Verkürzung ist, im Schulunterricht "since" als "Signalwort" für die present perfect tense zu "verkaufen":

{“Are there many changes in the garden,” he asked, “since I was here?”} (G. Greene) I live in a state of siege ever since it got about that I'm a magician who can cure consumption with a drop of serum. (G. B. Shaw) He's going straight since he got out of jail. Since he lost his money, half his friends don't know him anymore. Mustering up that kind of gratitude is a lot harder since I got divorced. Special interest appropriations are up by 64 percent since Bush took office. (Obama) Things are different in Pittsburgh since General Manager Neal Huntington took over in 2007 after a decade of working for Cleveland. They say that his accent remains unchanged since he first arrived in Spain. Do you miss your cook since she left? The time seems long indeed since I received your last letter. (A. Christie) Since I wrote the first edition of this book, I still can't believe how lucky I am to be living in France with my family. Since we invited the cycling team for an English breakfast, they view us with renewed respect. {I am glad to meet you, sir,” said he, putting out a broad, flat hand. “I hear of

Sherlock everywhere since you became his chronicler.” (C. Doyle) I hardly ever drive any more since I moved close to where I work. {When I first met her she was really one of the jumpiest girls you could ever hope to meet. Still, as I say, she's much calmer since she's been with me. Oh and I've noticed she [= a rabbit] is MUCH calmer since she's been out freerange more. Only 20% to 30% of Chinese farmers have insurance cover since rural collectives were abolished in the 1980s. We used to have clean water, but since the oil pipeline was built all we have is pollution. Since Taiwan emerged as a democracy in the 1990s, growing numbers of its people see themselves as vastly different in values from China. There is no legislature since the terms of the last remaining members of Parliament expired in January. I hurt inside, but I cannot get my emotions out since that day.

3. Dass “since“ auch (im Nebensatz) mit der present perfect tense kombiniert werden kann, liegt oft schon außerhalb des in der Schule vermittelten Stoffes:

Not one of those three women has ceased talking for an instant since we've been sitting here. (Saki) Since he has got on in the world he has grown snobbish. It's only happened twice since records have been kept dating back to 1905. Since we have been here we have done nothing else. Since I have been here nothing has changed. Since you have been in Barcelona, do you think your life has changed with respect to the life you had in your own country? Since I have been diagnosed, the technology has advanced. Has your perspective changed on any issues since the book has been out? I have been a miserable man since you have been away. I haven't eaten at McDonald's a single time since I've been here. Since you've become commissioner, has there been a decision you've made that's helped to achieve growth? {Settling in Texas got me closer to my parents. Since I've been back with them, they tell me some of the shell I built up during the war [in Iraq] has melted away.} He's been like that ever since he's been with us. I haven't cared for these things since I've known you. This platoon has never been over twenty men since I've been here. Eleanor seems to be happier than she has been since I've known her. Since I've known her, Bianca has only ever worked as a shop assistant and a waitress. (Sue Townsend) Since the vaccine has been introduced, more than 35 million doses have been administered. Since Virginia and I have been keeping company these last several months we have made it a weekly ritual to visit the opera.

Ein Sonderfall: Eighteen years have elapsed since the outcome of a general election was so uncertain; even more time has passed since a campaign has been so dramatic. – *In diesem Satz finden wir den Punkt 2. und den Punkt 3. kombiniert: zuerst “since + past tense”, dann “since + present perfect tense.*

Bemerkenswert:

Many years have passed since you have left us. – *Würde man hier nicht auf eine past tense wetten: “... since you left us”?* *Das ist zweifellos auch korrekt, aber in diesem Fall geht es dem Sprecher offenbar nicht um den Zeitpunkt der Trennung, sondern um den Zeitraum der Trennung.*

Ähnlich: It's been a lonely year since you have gone. Some people have fled the area, fearful of violence since the Marines have arrived.

Ein “since + present perfect tense“ verträgt sich auch mit einer present tense im Hauptsatz:

Do you write about parents differently since you have become one? This is the highest level since statistics have been kept. Where are the ducks since the weather has turned? At 33 percent it now stands at the highest level since the data have been kept. There are fewer families around since the farms have increased in size and decreased in number. Research examining employee happiness and how it relates to the length of time since a startup has launched shows a systematic dip in morale in years three and four. With each subsequent month since a venue has opened, we have more data with which we can better understand the venue. How long is it since we've said that?

Uneindeutig ist ein gerund: Latrell Sprewell is a new man since joining the New York Knicks. – *Das gerund “since joining“ kann man hier sowohl als past tense (“since he joined“) oder als present perfect tense (“since he has joined“) interpretieren. Ebenso:* Since giving up smoking, I have no urge to take up the habit again.

4. “Since“ kann sogar mit der present tense kombiniert werden:

It is clear since the attack on the World Trade Center that someone in Saudia Arabia had a hand in the matter.

Da gibt es dann auch die Kombination von 2 x present tense – einmal im Nebensatz, der mit “since“ eingeleitet wird, und einmal im Hauptsatz:

{The not-so-smart husband comes home and wants to have fun. The wife is exhausted and that annoys the hell of him. "Since you have the baby, I do not exist anymore. You are paying attention only to the baby, etc. etc. etc."}

Es gibt einen speziellen Artikel auf dieser Website, der nur dem Thema “since“ gewidmet ist. Dort findet man alles Wissenswerte auf 16 Seiten.

4. Bemerkungen zur present perfect tense

Als ehemaliger Englischlehrer kann der Verfasser der Versuchung nicht widerstehen, an dieser Stelle zuerst ein Wort an seine FachkollegInnen zu richten – gilt doch die Vermittlung der present perfect tense als eine der größten Schwierigkeiten im Anfangsunterricht. Als Einstieg ein Zitat aus einer bekannten Grammatik:

Für viele Deutschsprechende ist dieser Teil der englischen Grammatik [nämlich past tense vs. present perfect tense, Anm. des Verfassers] der größte Stolperstein überhaupt, denn die Verwechslung zwischen dem deutschen Perfekt (*ich habe sie angerufen*) und dem **Present Perfect** im Englischen (**I have phoned her**) drängt sich geradezu auf. Nur selten ist aber eine solche wortwörtliche Übersetzung richtig. (Langenscheidts Standardgrammatik Englisch, 5/1999, S. 28)

Für einen Englischlehrer mit deutschsprachigen Schülern ist die Vermittlung der present perfect tense im Unterschied zur past tense ein wichtiges Grammatik-Kapitel im 2. Lernjahr. So problematisch, wie es die Langenscheidt-Grammatik darstellt, ist es aber nicht, weil ein Aspekt der present perfect tense, nämlich der "resultative" Aspekt ("I have baked a cake – would you like some?") auch im Deutschen gilt. Diesen braucht man als Lehrer nicht extra zu betonen, den kennen deutschsprachige Schüler schon.

Es folgt ein Zitat aus dem 9. Duden-Band (Das Wörterbuch der sprachlichen Zweifelsfälle) Seite 906. Vorbemerkung: Mit dem Terminus "Perfekt" ist die Vergangenheit mit den Hilfszeitwörtern "sein" und "haben" gemeint (also: *Ich bin ins Kino gegangen und habe dich dort mit deiner Freundin gesehen*), mit "Präteritum" das Imperfekt (*Ich ging ins Kino und sah dich dort mit deiner Freundin*.)

"Das Perfekt kann nicht durch das Präteritum ersetzt werden, wenn der in die Vergangenheit eingeordnete Sachverhalt auf den Sprechzeitpunkt bezogen ist:

Ich habe meinen Schlüssel verloren. (= Ich habe jetzt keinen Schlüssel und komme deshalb nicht in meine Wohnung.) *Es hat geschneit!* (= Es liegt Schnee!) *Ich habe gestern mein neues Geschäft in der Schillerstraße eröffnet.* (= Das Geschäft kann jetzt besucht werden.) **Anmerkung des Verfassers: Hier allerdings endet die Verwandtschaft mit dem Deutschen – "yesterday" + present perfect tense wäre nicht möglich.**

Daraus folgt, dass das Perfekt einen Mehrwert gegenüber dem Präteritum haben kann (= resultative Bedeutung). Das Präteritum sollte also nicht einfach als Prestigetempus der geschriebenen Sprache verwendet werden, sondern nur dann, wenn damit tatsächlich ein in der Vergangenheit abgeschlossenes Geschehen ausgedrückt werden soll, bei dem keine Bezug zum Äußerungszeitpunkt hergestellt wird:

Im vergangenen Geschäftsjahr *baute* die X-AG den Geschäftsbereich E-Commerce *auf*. Währenddessen *wurden* Altkunden ebenso intensiv *betreut* wie zuvor.

Wenn es hingegen auf ein Resultat ankommt, sollte auch in stark formalisierten Kommunikationsformen wie Geschäftsbriefen und –berichten das Perfekt verwendet werden:

Im vergangenen Geschäftsjahr *hat* die X-AG den Geschäftsbereich E-Commerce erfolgreich *aufgebaut* und *ist* dabei auf eine Marktnische *gestoßen* (= der Geschäftsbereich ist jetzt vorhanden: die X-AG besetzt damit jetzt die Marktnische. "

Ein Beispiel zur Illustration des Zitats aus dem Duden:

Sherlock Holmes and Watson go on a camping trip. One night, Holmes wakes up. "Watson, Watson! Look up at the sky and tell me what you see." – "I see millions of stars, Holmes," replies a sleepy Watson. – "And what does that tell you?" asks Holmes. – "Well, it tells me that there are millions of planets, and that we are but a small and unimportant part of the universe. What does it tell you, Holmes?" – "Watson, you idiot!" Holmes replies. "Somebody has stolen our tent!"

"Somebody has stolen our tent!" – Kein Deutschsprachiger käme auf den Gedanken, hier zu sagen: "Jemand stahl unser Zelt!" oder "Unser Zelt wurde gestohlen!". Natürlich muss es heißen "Jemand hat unser Zelt gestohlen!" bzw. "Unser Zelt ist gestohlen worden!" So funktioniert die "resultative Bedeutung" des deutschen Perfekts – ganz wie im englischen present perfect.

Fazit: Ein Englischlehrer hat genug damit zu tun, seinen Schülern den temporalen Unterschied zwischen past tense und present perfect tense zu vermitteln. Mit dem "resultativen" Aspekt der present perfect tense sollte es aber keine Probleme geben.

4.1. Die Regel, wonach die present perfect tense bis zur Gegenwart reiche, muss manchmal interpretiert werden:

In apartments where suicides or murders have happened, even years earlier, prices are reduced by 20 percent or more. – *“Years earlier” könnte zu einer past tense verführen, aber wir haben hier ein Beispiel für das “indefinite past”: Ein Ereignis fand irgendwann einmal in der Vergangenheit statt, ist aber dort nicht näher verortet, daher present perfect tense.*

Ähnlich: An odd, queasy feeling came into my stomach; rooms where people have died violently have that effect on me.

Nowadays Dürer’s drawings are no longer on show, and the visitor sees only copies, but I have seen the originals and have not forgotten them.

Denyse had the normal dislike of a woman for the friends her husband has made before he married her. (Robertson Davies) – *“Before he married her” erscheint eine past tense (oder past perfect tense) geradezu zu erzwingen, und die wäre auch nicht falsch. Der kanadische Schriftsteller Robertson Davies nimmt sich aber die Freiheit, aus dem Blickwinkel der Frau die Freunde ihres Mannes als gegenwärtige Störfriede zu betrachten (resultativer Aspekt von “has made”).*

In Venezuela, doctors have operated on bloody tables because they did not have enough water to clean them. – *So einen Satz könnte zum Beispiel ein Medizin-Professor zu seinen Studenten sagen, wenn er generell von Schwierigkeiten spricht, mit denen Ärzte fertig werden müssen, im Sinn von “Es ist schon vorgekommen, dass Ärzte auf blutigen OP-Tischen operieren mussten.” Das ist eine allgemeine Beobachtung, die im Vordergrund steht und die allgemeingültig ist, daher der Bezug zur Gegenwart. Die past tense im Nebensatz ist kein Widerspruch dazu, weil die Situation konkretisiert wird.*

War being an object of immense pride to the Assyrian monarchs, the official sculptors have depicted it in all its multiple aspects and with a profusion of detail. – *Seit dem assyrischen Reich sind 3.000 Jahre vergangen – und trotzdem “have depicted”? Hier geht es um das Resultat – um das künstlerische Erbe der Assyrer.*

Most of the families of the wounded that I have interviewed months, if not years, after the injury say the same thing. – *“Months after the injury” ist eine Zeitangabe aus der Vergangenheit – trotzdem steht “I have interviewed”, weil der Sprecher, ein Journalist oder Schriftsteller, auf Ergebnisse aus den Interviews verweist; wann genau diese Interviews stattfanden, ist unwichtig.*

{I have been dining with Arabella this evening! By Jove! You should have heard what she said about Mrs. Erlynne. She didn’t leave a rag on her.} (O. Wilde) – *Zwar ist das Gespräch schon vorbei, aber “this evening” noch nicht, deshalb “have been dining”. (Wieso das in der progressive form steht, wird weiter unten besprochen.) Deshalb kann es auch mit der past tense “she said” kombiniert werden, weil dieser Nebensatz eine Konkretisierung darstellt.*

{He was a very bustling and genial person, this Sussex detective. In ten minutes we had all found our quarters. In ten more we were seated in the parlour of the inn and being treated to a rapid sketch of those events which have been outlined in the previous chapter.} (C. Doyle) – *Man könnte eventuell auf die Idee kommen, “previous” (chapter) – analog zu einer Zeitangabe – als Indikator einer past tense zu interpretieren. Conan Doyle tut das jedenfalls nicht.*

He does not even know that I am divorced or that I have left love behind in America. – *Man könnte “in America” hier auch eventuell als Zeitangabe verstehen (“als ich [noch] in Amerika war”). Gemeint mit der present perfect tense ist wohl das Ergebnis: der Sprecher / die Sprecherin ist jetzt Single.*

This is not the first time I have been an operations officer. – *Im Deutschen stünde hier die Gegenwart: Das ist nicht das erste Mal, dass ich Betriebsleiter bin. Das englische “this” könnte ebenfalls die Gegenwart, also die present tense, nahelegen. Das Englische hat eine andere Sichtweise: “Ich war schon öfters mal Betriebsleiter, und jetzt bin ich es wieder” ⇒ present perfect tense.*

It should be added that there is nothing concerning it which has not been known to the old alchemists of the Middle Ages. (C. Doyle) – *Eine überraschende Wahl der present perfect tense – wo doch das Mittelalter wohl schon lange genug vorbei ist. C. Doyle schreibt hier nicht über Sherlock Holmes, sondern über das Thema, dem er die späteren Jahre seines Lebens gewidmet hatte – Parapsychologie. Konkret geht es in diesem Zusammenhang um Ektoplasma, und es ist Doyle offenbar ein Anliegen, darauf hinzuweisen, dass das kein neues Phänomen ist, sondern "immer schon" bekannt war. Deshalb wohl die Wahl der present perfect tense.*

Ähnlich: As far back as Ptolemy, in the 2nd Century Roman Empire, cartographers have known that drawing an accurate map of the world is basically impossible. – Auch hier finden wir diese Idee von "immer schon bekannt".

Newton has explained the movements of the moon. – *Der Sprecher will hier kein historisches Ereignis referieren, sondern zum Ausdruck bringen, dass ein astronomisches Phänomen eine Erklärung gefunden hat, die noch immer gültig ist.*

In der Schule lernt man, dass "ago" ein "Signalwort" für die past tense sei. Auch diese Regel gilt nicht immer. In den nächsten drei Beispielen mit "long ago" steht die Auswirkung auf die Gegenwart im Vordergrund, deshalb present perfect tense:

They may be self-motivated, independent women who have long ago escaped the belief that they must conform to other people's idea of beauty. All military services have long ago learned that the officer who has given an order goes out and sees for himself whether it has been carried out. (Peter F. Drucker) The short-term impacts have long ago hit home for consumers, whether being outpriced by higher home mortgage rates or dealing with the higher costs of maintaining a credit card balance.

{Her call came in around 9 p.m. on Feb. 2, an hour before the city's emergency operations center opened. "I'm about to be flooded. It's about up to my garage door, and I have several weeks ago gotten sandbags, but I didn't have anyone to put them out for me," Shirley told the dispatcher that night.} – *Hier geht es nicht darum, wann die Sandsäcke beschafft wurden, sondern darum, dass schon seit längerer Zeit welche vorhanden sind – bloß ist niemand da, der sie transportieren kann.*

People have in times past believed many things as true, for example: that the sun revolves around the world; that masturbation leads to illness and death; that genetic information is carried in proteins. – *"In times past" legt natürlich eine past tense nahe; der Sprecher will aber zum Ausdruck bringen, dass die Menschen "immer schon" Irrtümern aufgesessen sind – nicht nur in der Vergangenheit.*

I desire, in all sincerity of heart, to approach those of you whose minds are ruled by evil desires and motives and to remind you, this morning, that you have, in times past, sought to have Jesus to be King over you. – *Hier könnte man spekulieren, dass der Priester / Prediger seine Zuhörer dazu bringen will, ihren Pakt mit Jesus aufrecht zu erhalten bzw. zu erneuern.*

The only time atomic bombs have been used was when two of them were dropped in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. – *Zuerst die present perfect tense, weil quasi die Geschichte der Menschheit angesprochen wird, dann die past tense für zwei zeitlich genau zu verortende Ereignisse.*

The layout and construction of the castle has already been described in the previous chapter. – *"Previous" scheint eine past tense zu implizieren, aber dem Schreiber des Texts geht es nicht um eine zeitliche Zuordnung, sondern um einen Gedankengang, den er jetzt fortsetzen will.*

People who are awakened while having REMs (= rapid eye movements) are very likely to report that they have been dreaming just beforehand. – *Streng genommen ist "just beforehand" bereits vorbei und abgeschlossen, aber so kleinlich ist die englische Sprache nicht; die Menschen sind noch ganz unter dem Eindruck ihrer Träume.*

{It tasted like supermarket chicken – chewy, fleshy, somewhat bland. It tasted nothing like the gamy, rich country chicken I have eaten in home-cooked stew in the Himalayan foothills.} – *Der Sprecher befindet sich zwar nicht mehr im Himalaya, aber er hat noch gute Erinnerungen daran – das ist ein Bezug zur Gegenwart. Hier haben wir einen Fall von "indefinite past" – d.h. es wird nicht die past tense verwendet, sondern die present perfect tense.*

{So I've been talking to this guy I met online for about a week. We've talked on the phone twice and both conversations were great.} – *Im ersten Satz steht "I've been talking to ...", weil der Kontakt noch andauert; im Deutschen heißt das ungefähr "ich bin im Gespräch mit ...". Im zweiten Satz steht zuerst die present perfect tense simple: "We've talked on the phone twice" – die beiden Gespräche sind zwar schon vobei, aber zeitlich nicht genauer definiert – also "indefinite past". Im letzten Satz ("... both conversations were great") steht dann die past tense, weil sich der Blickpunkt auf die Gespräche richtet (Konkretisierung), und die sind schon Vergangenheit.*

{This guy I've been talking to sent me this poem the other day when I asked him "Do you love me?". I think I've found the one. And I never thought he would have such a sweet side.} – *Zuerst die progressive form "This guy I've been talking to": Die Sprecherin ist in aufrechtem Kontakt mit dem Mann. Dann: "I think I've found the one". Das ist ein klassisches Beispiel für die simple form als Ausdruck eines Ergebnisses.*

More than once, when friends have been showing me photographs of groups of people, I have suddenly caught sight of a face that seemed strange to me. – *In beiden Fällen steht die present perfect tense, weil es sich um "indefinite past" handelt.*

Most of the Midwest and the East have already endured a polar blast in November. (Time, Dec. 29, 2014) – *Der Kaltlufteinbruch fand schon im Vormonat des Berichts statt, und man kann nicht einmal von einer "indefinite past" sprechen, weil er ja mit "last November" präzisiert ist. Natürlich wäre hier auch die past tense "endured" möglich, aber die Zeitschrift "Time" wählte trotzdem die present perfect tense. Um das zu erklären ein Blick auf den Kontext:*

Chances are there will be more of the same this winter. Most of the Midwest and the East have already endured a polar blast in November thanks to a so-called Omega block, a pattern of stationary air pressure that froze cold weather in place. A forecast model developed by Judah Cohen, a climatologist at the firm Atmospheric & Environmental Research, predicts a winter much like the last, with colder-than-average temperatures east of the Rockies and unusually warm weather up the West and into Alaska.

Insgesamt geht es hier um den gesamten Winter 2014, inklusive Vorschau – diesbezüglich ist der Verweis auf November kein zentraler Punkt, der damalige Kälteeinbruch ist nur ein Puzzlestein in einem übergeordneten Wetter-Bild, in das er sich mit der present perfect tense einfügt.

Zum Abschluss ein Text, den der Verfasser in der Zeitschrift SPOTLIGHT (6 / 2006) gefunden hat:

The football perfect

If you have learned to use the present perfect when the simple past is needed, you may be surprised by British sports commentaries. Here is what the Bolton wanderers (football) coach said after his side lost to West Ham in a recent FA Cup match: "We should have put the game away (gewinnen) in the first 90 minutes, and we haven't done that." Surely you are asking yourself why he said "we haven't done that" instead of "we didn't do that, given that the match is over. The main explanation offered is that the player or coach is reliving the events with such intensity that they still seem to be happening. The term "re-enactment perfect" has been suggested, but "football perfect" is also sometimes used.

Here are some more statements from English football players that were made a full week after a match: "He's kicked it at the goalie from five yards"; "... has put in a perfect cross (Flanke)"; "... and from four yards, he has managed not to put it in the net." Note: this use of the present perfect is not standard English, and we do not recommend its usage.

4.2. Present perfect simple or progressive?

Die traditionelle (vereinfachte) Erklärung für die present perfect tense lautet: present perfect simple für Ergebnisse, present perfect progressive für Handlungen, also z.B.:

She has painted the ceiling. (*Da ist sie schon fertig, die Decke ist frisch gestrichen.*) ≠ She has been painting the ceiling. (*Da steht sie noch mit dem Pinsel auf der Leiter.*)

Somebody has smoked all my cigarettes. (*Meine Packung ist jetzt leer.*) ≠ She has been smoking too much

recently. (*Sie raucht einfach zu viel.*)

Where is the book I gave you? What have you done with it? (*Wo ist es jetzt? Was hast Du damit angestellt?*) ≠ It's nice to see you again. What have you been doing since we last met? (*Was hast du so getrieben? – Hier interessiert sich der Fragesteller für Aktivitäten.*)

How many pages of that book have you read? (*Wie weit bist du schon gekommen?*) ≠ How long have you been reading that book? (*Wie lange sitzt du schon bei /über diesem Buch?*)

Mary has written ten letters today. (*Das ist das absolvierte Pensum.*) ≠ Mary has been writing letters all day. (*Sie hat sich den ganzen Tag mit Briefeschreiben beschäftigt.*)

They have played tennis three times this week. (*“Three times” ist ein absolviertes Pensum.*) ≠ They have been playing tennis since 2 o'clock. (*Sie spielen immer noch.*)

Have you ever played tennis? (*Hier geht es um eine gemachte Erfahrung.*) ≠ Where have you been? Have you been playing tennis? (*Hier geht es um die Handlung.*)

(*Diese Beispiele wurden entnommen aus “Raymond Murphy. English Grammar in Use. 1995“. Die Kommentare in Schrägschrift stammen vom Verfasser dieses Artikels.*)

Nun Beispiele (des Verfassers), die beide Formen in einem einzigen Kontext kontrastieren:

I've been riding motorcycles for 30 years, and I've had three accidents, which isn't bad odds. – *Dieser Satz enthält gleich beide Punkte: Progressive form für die Handlung des Motorradfahrens, simple form für drei Ergebnisse.*

Have you bought that dress that you've been talking about? – *Auch hier beide Formen: Zuerst das Ergebnis in der simple form, dann die progressive form für eine Handlung bis in die Gegenwart.*

Raising taxes and cutting public spending has hit the domestic economy at a time when export markets have been getting more difficult. – *Zuerst “has hit” für ein Ergebnis, dann “have been getting” für einen verlaufenden Vorgang.*

People have been trying to do this for 100 years, but nobody has successfully done it yet. – *Zuerst die progressive form (“have been trying”) für eine verlaufende Handlung, dann die simple form (“has successfully done it”) für ein (noch nicht zustande gekommenes) Ergebnis. Allerdings wäre hier auch im 1. Satz die simple form möglich: “People have tried to do this for 100 years ...”*

You have indeed done some solid work while I have been sitting spinning theories with my friend. (C. Doyle) – *Der Gesprächspartner hat schon etwas Solides vorzuweisen (= Ergebnis), während der Sprecher noch anderweitig beschäftigt ist (= Handlung).*

I've been dieting for a month, but all I've lost is 31 days. – *Zuerst im Hauptsatz die Handlung in der progressive form, dann im Nebensatz ein Ergebnis in der simple form.*

I have been recovering from flu, and I haven't got a temperature any more. – *Zuerst ist der Sprecher auf dem Weg der Besserung (= Handlung), dann kommt ein Ergebnis: Er ist fieberfrei.*

Es folgen Beispiele, welche diese traditionelle Erklärung der present perfect tense illustrieren.

Zuerst die simple form:

Now in my village you have empty houses where whole families have left. Electricity and water have come to villages that long had neither. Residents have installed their own septic tanks during the last couple of years. Since the Anti-Drug Abuse Act was passed in 1986, our penal population has increased from around 300,000 to more than 2 million. (Jimmy Carter) As one investor said in 2005 [*about the effects of the financial crisis*]: „This is worse than divorce. I've lost half my net worth – and I still have my wife.“ (Warren Buffett) Where are the jewels which you have stolen? (C. Doyle) Often, such patients have had a negative experience with mainstream medicine. At my age I've seen it all, I've heard it all, I've done it all, I just can't remember it all. I'm on a whisky diet – I've lost three days already. (Tommy Cooper) My mother has had a security system installed in her house.

Nun Beispiele für die progressive form:

It seems to me that I have been making a fool of myself from the beginning. (C. Doyle) Recently he has been drinking hard, and yesterday evening he was very drunk. (C. Doyle) We've been driving around for hours looking for him, but there is no sign of him. I haven't seen you for a long time – what have you been doing? [*D.h. “Was hast Du so alles getrieben?”*] Since the early 1980s, unions have been steadily losing ground. Most of the world's energy still comes from fossil fuels, yet countries have been steadily adopting cleaner

alternatives. The need for better education for most Americans has never been more urgent: While they have been sleeping, the rest of the world has been upgrading its skills. I do think she's been acting oddly the past few months. She picks up the glass Don has been drinking from and drinks from it. The spumante drinkers will try champagne and discover what they have been missing. {Samuel Johnson was congratulated by a woman for leaving indecent words out of his dictionary, to which he devastatingly replied, "So you've been looking for them, have you, Madam?"} They say that the most dangerous course is to switch suddenly off when you have been working hard. (C. Doyle) Hello Jack, we have been looking for you. He leaves us after a moment, returning to whatever he has been doing. "Hello, you two," he cried gaily, "where have you been hiding?" Have you been listening outside the door? Only when the tide goes out do you discover who has been swimming naked. (Warren Buffett)

{My mum told me I'd better use a toilet brush, so I did. I've been using it for a week, but I think I'm going back to paper.} (Dave Spikey) – *Das ist ein Witz, der mit der simple form nicht funktionieren würde: Die Tätigkeit muss im Vordergrund stehen.*

{Cocaine isn't habit forming. I know – I've been taking it for years.} (Talullah Bankhead) – *Auch das ist ein Witz – es geht um eine Gewohnheit; mit der simple form würde der Witz nicht funktionieren.*

{The chairman of the company called the managing director into the board room; he was then followed by the next director in seniority; then by another, and all the way down the line until the most junior and newly appointed director was duly summoned. He found his colleagues sitting around the board room table. "Sit down, Charles," said the chairman. "Now then. Have you been having an affair with my secretary?" – "Certainly not". – "Are you quite sure?" – "Of course I am. I have never laid a finger on her." – "Are you prepared to swear to that?" – "Yes." – "Very well, Charles," said the chairman ominously. "Then you sack her!"

Die Pointe der Geschichte liegt in der progressive form von "Have you been having an affair ..."; das ist eine Handlung, die bis in die Gegenwart andauert. Der jüngste Direktor wäre dann der letzte, der ein Verhältnis mit der Sekretärin hätte – was ihm ebenfalls verunmöglichen würde, sie zu entlassen.

Die past perfect progressive tense folgt demselben Schema wie die present perfect progressive tense:

She had been using drugs when she found out she was four months pregnant. Then she revealed another secret she had been keeping to herself: she was pregnant. His wife emerged from behind the curtain behind which she had been listening to the conversation. She describes an encounter with a neighbour who had been drinking. They had been talking some ten minutes when Michael fancied he heard a bell. I woke up this morning with the feeling that the train had been standing still for a long time. The policeman said that I had been driving too fast. The snow had been falling for only an hour, but it was already quite deep on the road. When I woke up after the third night, I had been dreaming about lamb chops. An officer looked up from a map that he had been studying. She wondered if the maid had been listening. He shrugged and turned back to the nurse he had been talking to. We'd been observing the scene for some minutes when a man came over to introduce himself.

Nun einige kontrastive Beispiele:

He looked up from the papers on his desk and said, "I've just been reading your supervisor's annual report." – *Hier ist der Sprecher noch in die Lektüre vertieft. Bei "I've just read" wäre er schon fertig damit. Ähnlich: I know all this because I have just been reading a book on the history of the motel in America.*

The Vatican has been opening up some of its archives in recent years, and remarkable stories have been coming to light. – *Das soll ausdrücken, dass immer wieder mal Archive geöffnet werden und immer wieder mal Dinge entdeckt werden – ein fortlaufender Prozess. Bei "has opened" und "have come (to light)" läge der Fokus auf den Fakten bzw. Ergebnissen.*

I've been promising Ruth a trip to London for some time. – *Ruth wäre hier die simple form "I've promised Ruth a trip to London" wohl lieber: Dann hätte sie bereits ein definitives Versprechen bekommen. In der progressive form hat sich der Sprecher noch nicht auf eine konkrete Reise festgelegt.*

She continued dancing and said, "You've been missing all the fun." – *In der simple form "You've missed all the fun" wäre der Spaß schon vorbei, und es gibt nichts mehr zu sehen. In der progressive form dagegen könnte es noch weiter gehen: "Du lässt Dir den ganzen Spaß entgehen."*

We're planning a party that includes a bottle of real Jack Daniel's whisky that we've been saving. – *Die progressive form "we've been saving" lässt eine Absicht vermuten, eine zielgerichtete Handlung. Dagegen würde "a bottle that we've saved" nur aussagen, dass halt eine Flasche vorhanden ist.*

I am also grateful to Lord Howe for the letters that he has been writing to me. – *Die progressive form impliziert, dass es auch noch in der Zukunft solche Briefe geben wird, der Kontakt als solcher steht im Vordergrund. "Letters that he has written" würde sich auf die Existenz von Schriftstücken beschränken.*

Some odd-looking people have been asking questions about you. – *Das hat etwa den Sinn: "Du, da will jemand etwas über dich wissen" – womöglich fragen die auch noch weiter in der Zukunft. "Have asked questions" ist dagegen schon abgeschlossen – der Sprecher informiert den Gesprächspartner über einen Sachverhalt.*

Psychedelic drugs have been making a comeback, even in the offices of Silicon Valley. – *Die progressive form bedeutet etwa: "Psychedelische Drogen sind wieder im Kommen" – was einen Vorgang, einen Verlauf beschreibt. "Have made a comeback" hieße dagegen "sind wieder da" – das ist die Beschreibung eines Zustandes.*

For the past three weeks you have been telling me the story of your life, with great emotional detail. (Robertson Davis) – *Die progressive form suggeriert, dass die Geschichtserzählung immer noch nicht fertig ist. Die simple form "have told me" würde sich in diesem Satz nicht gut 1:1 austauschen lassen, weil die Zeitangabe "for the past three weeks" nicht dazupasst.*

Pubs have been declining in numbers for decades. – *Das drückt einen langen Vorgang aus, der vermutlich auch noch in die Zukunft weitergeht. Dagegen z.B.: Overall, 76 per cent of the UK's butterflies have declined in numbers since 1975. So könnte z.B. das Ergebnis einer wissenschaftlichen Studie formuliert werden: präzise Angaben / Fakten werden geliefert.*

Some very strange things have been happening recently in the house in Brook Street. – *Das heißt ungefähr: "In letzter Zeit geht es dort seltsam zu" – möglicherweise wird es da auch noch weiter so gehen. Die simple form "have happened" dagegen beschränkt sich auf faktische Berichterstattung.*

The industry has been growing 3 to 5 percent every year over the past six years. – *Hier steht das Wachstum als solches im Vordergrund – als Vorgang bzw. Ereignis. Dagegen wäre "has grown 3 to 5 percent" eine statistische Aussage.*

There is a small restaurant in my neighborhood that I love and that I've been telling my friends about for six months. – *"Have been telling" heißt, dass ich das Thema immer wieder aufs Tapet bringe – und wahrscheinlich noch bringen werde. "Have told my friends about" verträgt sich nicht gut mit der Zeitangabe "for six months", da würde besser passen z.B. "... that I have told my friends about several times".*

Man vergleiche: I hear you've been telling everyone that I am an idiot. – Damit ist gemeint, dass der Gegenüber etwas herumerzählt. I hear you've told everyone that I am an idiot. – Hier geht es um etwas Abgeschlossenes: Also wissen jetzt alle, dass ich (angeblich) ein Idiot bin.

They must respect us, something they haven't been doing for months. – *In diesem Fall wäre die simple form ("something they haven't done for months") unidiomatisch, weil es nicht zum diffusen Verb "to respect" passt. Bei konkreten Handlungen ist das etwas anderes: They must change the bedsheets this week, something they haven't done for months.*

She says she appreciates the help she has been getting. – *Das heißt, dass sie noch immer Hilfe bekommt – wahrscheinlich auch noch in der Zukunft. Dagegen: She says she appreciates the help she has got. – Hier spricht die Sprecherin über etwas, was schon vorbei und abgeschlossen ist.*

What have you done this morning? – Hier erwartet sich der Fragesteller eine Leistung / Veränderung als Antwort. ≠ What have you been doing this morning? – Hier möchte der Fragesteller wissen, womit sich die andere Person beschäftigt hat, wofür sie ihre Zeit verwendet hat.

I hear you've been having a lot of changes at Blackstone. (E. Waugh) – Das bedeutet etwa: "Bei euch geht es ja ziemlich rund in letzter Zeit, wie man hört". Dagegen: I hear you've had a lot of changes at Blackstone. Die simple Form würde etwa bedeuten: "Bei euch ist ja kräftig umstrukturiert worden, wie man hört." Da geht es um Ergebnisse, nicht um Abläufe.

I see that you've been getting acquainted with my family. – Hier ist das Kennenlernen noch nicht abgeschlossen. Dagegen: I see that you've (already) got acquainted with my family. – Hier kennt man einander bereits.

Maybe you haven't been buying the right brand of energy drink. "Vielleicht kaufst du nicht die richtige Marke." – Damit ist eine Gewohnheit gemeint. Dagegen: Maybe you haven't bought the right brand of energy drink. – Hier ist von einem einzelnen Einkauf die Rede, der ein unerwünschtes Ergebnis erbracht hat.

We have been getting more sleep lately. – Auf den ersten Blick sieht das aus wie ein Ergebnis: "more sleep" ist ja im Prinzip messbar. Die Intention der englischen Sprache wird erst in einer etwas abweichenden deutschen Übersetzung klar: "In letzter Zeit kommen wir mehr zum Schlafen." Hier sieht man, dass eine Tätigkeit im Vordergrund steht. In diesem Fall wäre übrigens die Form "We have got more sleep lately" unidiomatisch – die englische Sprache betrachtet offenbar "sleep" nicht als ein Produkt, das man erzeugen kann.

Clarice said sharply, "What have they been saying?" (A. Christie) – Auf den ersten Blick sieht das wie die Frage nach einem "Ergebnis" aus – eine Aussage ist ja etwas, das man niederschreiben oder nacherzählen kann. Die Intention der englischen Sprache erkennt man in diesem Fall bei einer sinngemäßen Übersetzung: "Was reden die da schon wieder?" – "What have they said?" ist dagegen eine neutrale Frage ohne ärgerlichen Beigeschmack (und erzielt auch wesentlich mehr Google-Treffer).

He rises from the table, where he has been writing letters. (O. Wilde) – Müssen da nicht einige Briefe auf dem Tisch liegen als Ergebnis seiner Tätigkeit? – Ja, schon, aber hier liegt der Fokus auf die Handlung des Schreibens: "Er steht von dem Tisch auf, wo er gerade noch Briefe geschrieben hat / beim Briefe-Schreiben war." Dieser Satz stammt aus einem Theaterstück von O. Wilde (Lady Windermere's Fan), und auf der Bühne geht es mehr um Handlung als um Fakten, deshalb würde hier die simple form ("where he has written letters") nicht passen.

We have been reading a lot about you lately. – Heißt das nicht, dass wir jetzt über mehr Informationen verfügen – also einen Informationszuwachs verbuchen können? – Ja, schon, aber der Fokus liegt woanders: "Über dich wird ja in letzter Zeit allerhand geschrieben / Du bist ja in letzter Zeit sehr präsent in den Medien." – Die simple form wirkt dagegen neutral und farblos: We have read a lot about you lately.

We believe she has been selling Defence Department secrets to the Chinese. – Da ist sie noch als Spionin aktiv. Dagegen: We believe she has sold Defence Department secrets to the Chinese. – Das ist eine Aussage über ein Ergebnis: Die Chinesen kennen jetzt die Geheimnisse.

The fact is I have been having some dreams recently that have been bothering me. – Hier steht der Sprecher noch unter dem Eindruck des Erlebnisses. Dagegen würde die simple form farblos wirken: The fact is I have had some dreams recently that have bothered me.

We believe that they haven't been telling the whole truth. – Das heißt etwa soviel wie "Wir glauben, dass sie schummeln." ≠ We believe that they haven't told the whole truth. – Dieser Satz bezieht sich auf einen konkreten Sachverhalt, über den unvollständige Aussagen getätigt wurden.

I have been recovering from flu, and I haven't got a temperature any more. – In diesem Fall ist der Sprecher noch nicht ganz gesund. ≠ A person can still be contagious a week after they have recovered from flu. – Hier ist die Grippe schon vorbei, bloß die Ansteckungsgefahr noch nicht.

I've just been having a painful interview with Mr Biffen. – *Hier steht der Sprecher noch ganz unter einem unangenehmen Eindruck – der Ablauf des Gesprächs ist ihm noch sehr präsent.* ≠ I've just had a painful interview with Mr Biffen. – *Das ist eine neutrale Aussage.*

She hasn't been selling many paintings recently. – *Das heißt ungefähr: „In letzter Zeit geht das Geschäft ziemlich schlecht.“ Dagegen ist die simple form eine Art Bilanz (= Ergebnis):* She hasn't sold many paintings recently.

I wonder who's been stealing all those car radios around here. – *Hier sind wir noch mitten drin in einer Welle von Diebstählen, im Deutschen: „Ich frage mich, were alle diese Autoradios stiehlt“.* Die simple form (I wonder who's stolen all those car radios around here.) würde auch im Deutschen mit dem Perfekt übersetzt werden und nicht mit dem Präteritum: *„Ich frage mich, wer alle diese Autoradios gestohlen hat.“ Hier betrachtet der Sprecher die Diebstahls-Welle als schon abgeschlossen.*

Ähnlich: It is not clear who has been planting the bombs. ≠ It is not clear who has planted the bombs.

Is that what he has been saying, the dirty bastard? – *Damit ist nicht ein einzelner Vorfall gemeint; der Sprecher gibt vielmehr zu verstehen, dass der „dirty bastard“ Lügen verbreitet.* ≠ Is that what he has said? – *Das ist ein einzelner Vorfall.*

Have you been going out with that bastard again? – *Damit ist nicht ein einzelnes Rendezvous gemeint, sondern: „Bist du etwa wieder mit diesem Kerl zusammen?“* ≠ Have you gone out with that bastard again? – *Das ist ein einziges (evtl. nur wenige) Rendezvous.*

Have the children been getting enough milk? – *Dahinter steckt ein längerer Zeitraum; sinngemäß etwa: „Werden die Kinder eh gut versorgt?“* ≠ Have the children got enough milk? – *Das bezieht sich auf eine einzige Situation.*

“I have been making a fool of myself,” he gasped. – *„Ich mache mich zum Narren.“ Hier kommentiert der Sprecher eine Handlung bzw. mehrere Handlungen.* ≠ “I have made a fool of myself,” he gasped. – *„Ich habe mich zum Narren gemacht.“ Hier zieht der Sprecher eine Schlussfolgerung, zieht Bilanz.*

My daughter has been having some strange symptoms and I'm worried about her. – *Das sagt eine Mutter zur Kinderärztin. Man könnte meinen, bei „symptoms“ ginge es um irgendein Ergebnis, aber „having symptoms“ ist ein Vorgang, der schon eine Zeitlang andauert. In dieser Situation wäre „My daughter has had some strange symptoms“ nicht idiomatisch.*

He says he has been receiving letters demanding money. – *„Er sagt, er bekommt Briefe mit Geldforderungen.“ Aus der Sicht des Sprechers werden vielleicht noch mehr solcher Briefe kommen.* ≠ He says he has received letters demanding money. – *„Er sagt, er hat Briefe mit Geldforderungen bekommen.“ Das ist schon abgeschlossen, nur die Briefe sind noch da (= Ergebnis).*

In theory, every hospital asks if you have been taking any other medicines when you come in. – *In diesem Fall will das Spital wissen, ob Sie gewohnheitsmäßig andere Medikamente nehmen – da geht es also um eine Handlung.* ≠ In theory, every hospital asks if you have taken any other medicines when you come in. – *Dieser Satz passt nicht zu einem Aufnahmegespräch; er würde bedeuten, dass nach einer einzigen Einnahme gefragt wird.*

China has also been building three vast fields of missile silos in its arid northern expanses. – *Hier sind die Raketensilos noch „under construction“.* ≠ China has also built three vast fields of missile silos in its arid northern expanses. – *Hier sind die Silos bereits fertiggestellt.*

I had planned to write today about a recurring dream I've been having. – *Hier geht es um ein Erlebnis, das sich über einige Tage oder länger hinzieht (vielleicht noch in die Zukunft), daher progressive form. Die simple form würde nicht zu „recurring“ passen, weil kein Ergebnis bzw. keine abgeschlossener Vorgang vorliegt.*

{We wake to wonderland. It has snowed all night and everything is now wrapped in a pure white blanket.} – *Viele native speakers würden das vermutlich als gleichwertig erachten mit: {We wake to wonderland. It has*

been snowing all night and everything is now wrapped in a pure white blanket.} Letzteren Satz könnte man auch einreichen in die Beispiele im Punkt 4.3. weiter unten. Pingelige Grammatiker würden anmerken, dass bei der simple form der Schneefall schon aufgehört hat, während er bei der progressive form noch andauert.

I have been telling this story all over the country for the last two and a half years. – Grundsätzlich wäre hier auch die simple form möglich, aber die progressive form lässt mehr Engagement des Sprechers spüren.

You have your lover at your mercy, which can be particularly attractive if same lover has been squeezing the toothpaste tube from the middle, eating the last piece of chocolate cake, or not noticing one's pretty new dress. – Hier sieht man schön den Unterschied zwischen gewohnheitsmäßigen Tätigkeiten (= progressive form) und einzelnen (abgeschlossenen) Handlungen. In diesem Satz wäre die present perfect simple bei den drei Verben nicht möglich.

Recently, his costs have been rising and his orders have been shrinking. – Das ist eine Beschreibung der aktuellen Umstände – wie sich die Dinge in letzter Zeit so entwickeln. ≠ Recently, his costs have risen and his orders have shrunk. – Hier zieht jemand Bilanz.

In recent years, vets have been finding more and more cases of tuberculosis in cows. – Damit soll ausgedrückt werden, dass sich die Tuberkulose immer mehr verbreitet. ≠ In recent years, vets have found more and more cases of tuberculosis in cows. – Das ist eine Bilanz der Arbeit der Tierärzte.

Für die past perfect tense gelten die gleichen Grundsätze:

He did not appear to understand what had been happening. – "Er verstand nicht, was da im Gange war." Hier geht es nicht um ein einziges Ereignis, sondern um eine Abfolge, um eine Entwicklung. Dagegen: He did not appear to understand what had happened: Das ist ein konkreter Vorfall (= Ergebnis).

Ähnlich: Holmes told me that Oldacre had been paying money to a "Mr Cornelius". (C. Doyle) – Auch hier eine Gewohnheit, kein Einzelfall (= abgeschlossene Handlung).

The dead man had only been coming to the club the last month or two. – Hier bedeutet die progressive form, dass der Mann öfters gekommen war, dass es eine Gewohnheit war. Die simple form würde ein einmaliges Ereignis bedeuten und vertrüge sich nicht mit der Zeitangabe "the last month or two".

I had been digging for nearly five minutes when I heard a shout. – Eine verlaufende Handlung wird unterbrochen. "I had dug for nearly five minutes ..." wäre nicht idiomatisch.

I phoned her to tell her all sorts of wonderful things that had been happening to me. – Hier befindet sich der Sprecher noch in einer Glückssträhne. ≠ I phoned her to tell her all sorts of wonderful things that had happened to me. – Hier ist die Glückssträhne schon zu Ende.

She was terrified that somehow he had been reading her mind. – Hier geht es um das Gedankenlesen als Handlung. ≠ She was terrified that somehow he had read her mind. – Hier geht es um einen Einzelfall mit einem Ergebnis – sie fürchtet, dass er etwas herausgefunden hat.

On the plane I told Tom something that I had been hiding for weeks. – Es geht dem Sprecher nicht um die Geheimhaltung als Faktum (> "had hidden"), sondern um die Geheimhaltung als bewusste Handlung: darum, dass er etwas absichtlich geheim gehalten hatte.

Manchmal sind beide Formen aber auch (fast) gleichwertig:

I'm late in writing this week, but things have been happening so fast I just haven't been able to. – Das ist ein Fall, wo es kaum einen Unterschied zwischen simple und progressive gibt. Man könnte darüber spekulieren, ob der Sprecher bei der simple form "things have happened so fast" vermutlich nicht annimmt, dass es in dieser Tour noch weitergehen wird.

Why have you been following me? – Auch hier ist die simple form "Why have you followed me?" praktisch gleichwertig.

I've been making all the decisions here for 10 months by myself. – *Auch hier kaum ein Unterschied zur simple form: I've made all the decisions here for 10 months by myself.*

For as long as anyone in the tiny Spanish village of San Pedro Manrique can remember, people here have been walking on fire. – *Auch hier wäre ebenso gut die simple form möglich: "... people have walked on fire."*

It was the deadliest tornado in the 61 years that the National Weather Service has been keeping statistics. – *Die simple form wäre ebenfalls möglich: "... has kept statistics."*

Humans have been raising some fish in farms for almost as long as we've been fishing, beginning with Chinese fish ponds 4000 years ago. – "Humans have raised some fish in farms ... " *ist gleichwertig.*

Since time began, it seems, people have been putting off till tomorrow what they could have done today. – "... people have put off till tomorrow ..." *wäre genauso möglich.*

Have you been contributing to her support since she left you? – *Auch die simple form wäre möglich: Have you contributed to her support since she left you?"*

I know your character and methods too well, for I have followed your work for some years. (C. Doyle) – *Auch die progressive form wäre möglich: I know your character and methods too well, for I have been following your work for some years. (C. Doyle)*

I'm just really thankful for the support that I've been getting from family, and sponsors that have stuck with me through these years. – *Interessant ist hier, dass für ein-und-dieselbe Sache, nämlich die Unterstützung durch andere Personen, einmal die progressive form und einmal die simple form steht. Hier wäre aber auch die umgekehrte Fassung denkbar: I'm just really thankful for the support that I've got from family, and sponsors that have been sticking with me through these years. Ebenso denkbar wäre 2 x simple und 2 x progressive.*

They haven't been living together for very long. – "They haven't lived together for very long." *ist gleichwertig.*

I guess we have been getting a little careless. – "I guess we have got a little careless" *macht keinen großen Unterschied.*

Is all that you have been saying to me merely a joke? – "Is all that you have said to me merely a joke?" *macht keinen großen Unterschied.*

For centuries, botanists have been modifying the genetic qualities of plants. – "For centuries, botanists have modified the genetic qualities of plants" *macht keinen großen Unterschied.*

I have to admit that I am rather confused by what you have just been telling me. – "I have to admit that I am rather confused by what you have just told me" *macht keinen großen Unterschied.*

Ähnlich: I admit that I have been telling you a pack of lies. / I admit that I have told you a pack of lies.

When you have been pursuing an ambition all your life it's actually quite frightening to achieve it. – *Auch die simple form wäre möglich: When you have pursued an ambition all your life it's actually quite frightening to achieve it.*

I have been praying a lot lately. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit: I have prayed a lot lately.*

For nearly a century, the St. Pierre Manufacturing Corp. has made steel products like horseshoes, tire chains and wire ropes in a facility in Worcester, Mass. – *Das ist gleichwertig mit: For nearly a century, the St. Pierre Manufacturing Corp. has been making steel products like horseshoes, tire chains and wire ropes in a facility in Worcester, Mass.*

I've read TIME for 65 years, always with great interest and satisfaction. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit: I've been reading TIME for 65 years, always with great interest and satisfaction.*

The number of adolescents who have sought to medically change their sex has been skyrocketing in recent years. – *Anstatt "... have sought ..." könnte hier auch "... have been seeking" stehen, und anstatt "... has been skyrocketing ..." könnte auch "... has skyrocketed ..." stehen.*

People have been growing impatient with the waves of violence and the failed attempts to bring peace to this island. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit der simple form:* People have grown impatient with the waves of violence and the failed attempts to bring peace to this island.

{In Mauretania, divorce is not just normal, but seen as a reason to celebrate and spread the word that a woman is available once more for marriage. For centuries, women have been coming together to eat, sing and dance at one another's divorce parties.} – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit der simple form:* "For centuries, women have come together to eat ..."

In the past two months, we've been hearing from people all over the country who are upset. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit der simple form:* In the past two months, we've heard from people all over the country who are upset.

People have been trying to manipulate each other since the beginning of time. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* People have tried to manipulate each other since the beginning of time.

Human beings have been altering natural processes ever since they learned how to make fire. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Human beings have altered natural processes ever since they learned how to make fire.

Mothers have been leaving their children with trusted neighbors since people first started to gather in village. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Mothers have left their children with trusted neighbors since people first started to gather in village.

Noah has been playing sports since he was a child. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Noah has played sports since he was a child.

Well, that's what I've been saying in different books. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Well, that's what I've said in different books.

Fires across the western U.S. have been getting worse in recent years. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Fires across the western U.S. have got[ten] worse in recent years.

I haven't been living in the countryside long enough to develop any strong feelings. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* I haven't lived in the countryside long enough to develop any strong feelings.

For many millions of years primates have been living in groups. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* For many millions of years primates have lived in groups.

Have you worked here long? – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Have you been working here long?

Haven't people been predicting this for years? – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* Haven't people predicted this for years?

I have been drinking black tea since I was ten years old. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit:* I have drunk black tea since I was ten years old.

The three [mountain climbers] have been climbing together for about four years, in pairs and sometimes together. – *Ebenfalls möglich wäre die simple form:* The three [mountain climbers] have climbed together for about four years, in pairs and sometimes together.

John Weisheit, who helps lead the conservation group Living Rivers, has been rafting on the Colorado for over four decades. – *Ebenfalls möglich wäre die simple form:* John Weisheit, who helps lead the conservation group Living Rivers, has rafted on the Colorado for over four decades.

Since 1963, the Glen Canyon Dam has been backing up the Colorado for nearly 320 kilometers, in the form of America's second-largest reservoir Lake Powell. – *Ebenfalls möglich wäre die simple form*: Since 1963, the Glen Canyon Dam has backed up the Colorado for nearly 320 kilometers, in the form of America's second-largest reservoir Lake Powell.

{“Dad,” I whispered. “What is it?” “Have you been doing this often after I've gone to sleep, without me knowing it?” “No,” he said. “Tonight was the first time for nine years. When your mother died and I had to look after you by myself, I made a vow to give up poaching until you were old enough to be left alone at nights. But this evening I broke my vow. I had such a tremendous longing to go up into the woods again, I just couldn't stop myself. I'm very sorry I did it.”} (Roald Dahl) – *Ein Junge spricht mit seinem Vater über das Wildern von Fasanen. Möglich wäre auch “Have you done this often”; die progressive form lässt die Frage des Jungen aber unmittelbarer / persönlicher / eindrucklicher klingen.*

Beispiele mit der past perfect tense:

He had walked there for about five minutes when he heard an unmistakable sound. – *Möglich auch*: He had been walking there for about five minutes when he heard an unmistakable sound.

The Iraqis had not been expecting a column of tanks and armor to roll right up the main highway into Baghdad. – *Das ist ziemlich gleichwertig mit*: The Iraqis had not expected a column of tanks and armor to roll right up the main highway into Baghdad.

Beiläufigkeit

So wie bereits im Kapitel über die past tense erwähnt, kann auch die present perfect progressive tense Beiläufigkeit ausdrücken:

I've just been talking to some men in the town about the condition of affairs in Mexico. (Saki) {My stepdaughter has been here. I have traced her. What has she been saying to you?} (C. Doyle) “As a matter of fact,” he said, I've just been showing it to the Headmaster.” I have just been talking to some students. Who has been saying that to you? It's like I have been telling you. We have already been talking about one aspect of this. {“Do you know who the man Ratchett really was, Mademoiselle?” She nodded. “Mrs Hubbard has been telling everyone (= erzählt das überall herum).”} Didn't you hear what he has been saying about me (= was er über mich herumerzählt)? I know that she has been here – what has she been saying to you? Rosie has been telling me all about this and how much fun it was. {“Who has been telling you about that?” – “I don't know, somebody mentioned it the other day.”} Don't tell Nelly what you've just been telling me, will you? {Rachel's been telling me about her thesis. She's working on Lytton Strachey, you know.}

Entsprechend in der past perfect tense:

The article was about a man named Lang Hancock, about whom I had lately been reading. A boy scout who was late for a meeting excused himself by saying that he had been told that boy scouts should help people, so he had been helping an old lady across the road. There was a picture in the envelope that I had been asking for.

Wiederholungen

Wiederholte Handlung stehen normalerweise nicht in der progressive form: I have knocked three times, but there doesn't seem to be an answer. I've changed addresses five times since I graduated from college. We will be closed on Memorial Day as we have done for the last 41 years! {Since Rosalynn and I travel so much during the year, we accumulate significant frequent flyer mileage. Each year we have used this and some of our savings to take our entire family on a trip between Christmas and New Year's.} (Jimmy Carter)

Aber es gibt Ausnahmen:

“Please, can we live in Jordan?” she had been asking him on his recent visits, usually on his last night. Abdul has been traveling to Jerusalem for chemotherapy up to four times a month for three years. You've been having this nightmare every few weeks for as long as I can remember. At the time I first thought of a detective – it was about 1886 – I had been reading some detective stories, and it struck me what nonsense they were. (C. Doyle) For more than 20 years I've been going several times a year – often for no longer than three days –

to a Benedictine hermitage to meditate. {Where have you been? I've been calling your office all day.} Obama has been raising more than \$1million a day for several months now. {"Dad," I whispered. – "What is it?" – "Have you been doing this often after I've gone to sleep, without me knowing it?"} (R. Dahl) The minister has been handling each application on a case-by-case basis. {It feels so strange to be back in Canada. I miss Austria already and have been reading every book I can find on your beautiful country and its history.} The lady has been doing the "Cure" here during the winters for three years for tuberculosis of the lungs. I had planned to write today about a recurring dream I've been having. Well, that's what I've been saying in different books. Their hit-and-run attacks have been killing a dozen soldiers a week.

Past perfect tense: Julian had been examining all the tombstones in the cemetery and reading all the various inscriptions when he suddenly asked his father: "Daddy, where do they bury all the horrible people?"

Progressive form auch für Nicht-Handlungen

Bei der present perfect progressive geht es grundsätzlich um Handlungen (im Gegensatz zu Ergebnissen in der simple form) – aber das können auch Nicht-Handlungen sein, wenn also gar nichts geschieht. Das heißt, die present perfect progressive tense kommt auch in verneinten Sätzen vor:

You haven't been paying enough attention. You haven't been getting much sleep lately, have you? I'm afraid I haven't been following all you chaps have said. (E. Waugh) I haven't been sleeping too well lately. When I turn on the lights I realize that I haven't been sweating – my shirt and pants are full of blood. They claim that the local managers haven't been properly compensating them for overtime. I hope that everything is OK because I really haven't been feeling 100 percent lately. I've lost 30 lb, but I haven't been lifting weights or running on a Stairmaster. He has been struggling to convince skeptics that he has not been taking the shortcuts [*i.e. doping*] that have become an epidemic in sports. She hasn't been feeling too well lately. The people who say this apparently haven't been listening to me. I hope you have not been leading a double life! But the rebels haven't been winning fans, either. {I'm not arguing for government to do more; I'm arguing for government to do more of the right thing. So I haven't been arguing for greater government spending per se.} (Obama) Steve Ballmer hasn't been getting much love recently. We haven't been hearing that for a while. To tell you the truth, I haven't been following the affair very closely. The Indian economy hasn't been growing as quickly as China's. As you see I have not been wasting my time altogether. The staff give the slight impression that they haven't been doing this for very long. He says that they haven't been doing a lot of flying lately because of the weather. Things haven't been going well. He is very smart, but hasn't been getting good grades. I've been calling for an hour – why haven't you been answering your phone? {I hope you have not been leading a double life, pretending to be wicked and being really good all the time. That would be hypocrisy.} (O. Wilde) Do you know that some of the other members have not been speaking to me for some weeks? Because there is no job guarantee for I.T. people in India, for the last six months brides' families haven't been accepting grooms from this background. Frankly, I don't understand why America hasn't been dealing with Iran in this way. I haven't been looking at your new dress, I have been looking at you. Haven't you been listening to anything I've been saying? We've been working together, but they haven't been paying me my fair share of the money. I haven't been working since last week. She hasn't even been replying to my emails. You have not been looking after the house properly. He has been leaving us messages and we haven't been catching on. Things haven't been going too well for a number of months now. Most Americans haven't been paying much attention to this threat. He hasn't been playing very well recently. You have not been practising at all! You haven't been paying attention to what I've been saying! Perhaps our bureaucrats haven't been doing their jobs. I know that I haven't been behaving too well. Some of the faculty members have not been speaking to him for some time. We haven't seen anyone swimming here, and we certainly haven't been swimming ourselves. Some critics have charged that he has not been devoting enough energy to the project. Haven't you been following what I have been saying? I suppose I have not been taking much account of where the money went. I have not been seeing much of you lately. {I haven't been going out much lately. I usually come home after work and get to bed early.} I'm still waiting – the seeds sprouted within a week, but they haven't been getting any bigger since. I haven't been living in the countryside long enough to develop any strong feelings. We have neither of us been seeing people much. I have been so preoccupied with Mum that I have hardly been noticing Daniel at all.

Selbiges gilt auch für die past perfect progressive tense:

{I remember the first dance that I went to. I hadn't been dancing for three or four years while I was at Los Alamos. So I went to this dance and danced as best I could.} (Richard Feynman) The doctor believed her when she said that she had not been injecting for long. Spade was about to develop his little paradox further, but he noticed that Mr Tillotson had not been listening. (A. Huxley) I knew that he hadn't been seeing much action. There were questions why he hadn't been wearing a seat belt. It turned out he hadn't been paying the rent. Obviously he had not been paying attention. They made a good team, even though they hadn't been operating together for a long time. As they had not been paying any social security contributions, she was not on the system and therefore not eligible for help. It was very touching – I hadn't been expecting to make such an impact on their lives. In amongst the shadows lurked something that I'd not been expecting at all. I knew they had not been getting on together for some time. Mrs Puddington had not been exaggerating. She acted as if she had not been listening. I hadn't been sleeping well, and arranged to meet Judith early in the morning for a cup of coffee. Until that morning, I hadn't been expecting the worst. I hadn't been working in the bookshop very long when a man got talking to me. He had not been paying attention to his experiment and a cloud of noxious green gas began to billow up.

Dessenungeachtet gibt es natürlich auch unzählige Fälle, wo bei Verneinungen nur die simple form möglich ist:
You have not understood; allow me to elucidate. I have not entered into any financial agreements with them. Police investigating the train derailment have not ruled out sabotage.
I've never tried this experiment. I have never engaged in the drug trade. I have never committed any crime.

4.3. Present perfect progressive für das Zustandekommen von unbeabsichtigten Ergebnissen:

Ein Aspekt der present perfect progressive tense, welcher in den meisten Grammatiken stiefmütterlich behandelt wird, sind jene Fälle, wo sie eine Handlung beschreibt, welche ein unbeabsichtigtes Ergebnis hervorruft. Beabsichtigte bzw. folgerichtige Ergebnisse stehen dagegen in der present perfect simple tense:

Den Unterschied sieht man hier: Have you tidied up my room? – Das ist eine neutrale Frage eines Ehemannes an seine Frau; er will wissen, ob sein Zimmer jetzt zusammengeräumt ist. Dagegen: Have you been tidying up my room? – Hier ärgert sich der Ehemann, weil er etwas nicht finden kann, das nicht an seinem gewohnten Platz steht. Die erste verdächtige Person ist natürlich seine Frau: "Hast du etwa schon wieder bei mir zusammengeräumt?"

I think I've eaten too much fast food. – Das beschreibt ein einmaliges Ereignis, z.B. wenn der Sprecher ein Völlegefühl hat. Dagegen: I think I've been eating too much fast food. – Hier ist von einer Gewohnheit die Rede, wenn der Sprecher z.B. an Gewicht zugenommen hat – geplant war das jedenfalls nicht.

Have you been reading the Bible? – Hier will der Fragesteller wissen, ob sein Gesprächspartner in letzter Zeit die Bibel gelesen hat (zum Beispiel, weil er einige Zitate parat hat). Bibelkenntnisse sind zwar kein unbeabsichtigtes Ergebnis von Bibellektüre, es genügt aber auch die Schlussfolgerung des Fragestellers. Dagegen: Have you read the Bible? – Das ist eine neutrale Frage, ob der Gesprächspartner überhaupt jemals in der Bibel gelesen hat.

I felt that I should tell you, sir, that somebody has been putting black polish on your brown walking shoes. (P. G. Wodehouse) – Das klingt auf den ersten Blick so, als sei der Schuhputzer noch am Werk (present perfect progressive tense für Handlungen), aber in diesem Fall geht es um ein unbeabsichtigtes Ergebnis (= jemand hat die falsche Schuhcreme erwischt). Sollte es sich womöglich um einen beabsichtigten Streich handeln, dann stünde allerdings die simple form: „Somebody has put black polish on your brown walking shoes.“

Es ist übrigens auch möglich, die present perfect progressive für beabsichtigte Ergebnisse zu verwenden:

In preparation for his trip, he had been visiting friends and family to bid them farewell. What have you been using on your skin to keep it looking so smooth?

Ebenso past perfect progressive: We had a meeting with him, and I had been doing some calculations and gotten some results.

Es folgen Beispiele für Handlungen, welche entweder unbeabsichtigte Ergebnisse nach sich ziehen, oder andere Personen zu Schlussfolgerungen daraus veranlassen (können). Ein klassischer Fall ist Alkoholgenuss:

If this makes sense to you, then you have been **drinking**. A fellow does some crazy things when he's been drinking. {Will I be able to see kangaroos in the streets in Australia? – That depends on how much you have been drinking.} In the United States, more than 30 percent of all fatal crashes involve at least one driver who has been drinking. In the video they appeared to have been drinking alcohol. A fellow does some crazy things when he has been drinking. When you've been drinking champagne for an hour laughing comes easy. {My wife couldn't understand what I was laughing at. "What have you been drinking?" she said.} "Darling," my wife said anxiously, "you haven't been drinking some more of that dreadful stuff?" You haven't been hitting the bottle lately, have you? Don't get in a car with a driver who has been drinking. They will not allow people who have been drinking onto shooting ranges. Watch out for red flags, e.g. alcohol-dependent dating: the two of you only connect when you've been drinking.

Das gilt auch für das Rauchen:

Perhaps he's been **smoking** cigars and doesn't feel well. (E. Waugh) Has someone been smoking in this car? {There were many points during the inception of Star Wars when friends and studio execs said to George Lucas words to the effect of, "Have you been smoking a lot of weed lately, George?"} {The first thing he said was, "Have you been smoking young man?" I had and must have stank.} {President Trump commented at a campaign-style rally Saturday in Florida that something had happened in Sweden the previous night as he spoke of European countries that had been hit by terrorist attacks: "You look at what's happening last night in Sweden. Sweden! Who would believe this?" Twitter went crazy, and Bild tweeted: "What has Trump been smoking?" There was no terrorist attack in Sweden.}

Auch wenn jemand weint, sieht man ihm / ihr das an:

She looks as if she's been **crying**. Apparently, she's been crying all along. Have you been crying?" he said. She's obviously been crying. The sun was full on her face, and it was clear that she had been crying. She will be angry if she sees that I have been crying.

Weitere Beispiele:

{Oh, you're simply exasperating. You've been reading Nietzsche till you haven't got any sense of moral proportion left.} Maybe I've been reading too many spy novels. (Saki) You have been reading in the dark again – you'll ruin your eyes! In Britain, since about 1950 a bow-legged man is called a cowboy, because he looks as if he has been doing a lot of riding. Someone has been tampering with the lock. {"Someone has been hiding here, sure enough." He held down the light, and the marks of muddy boots were very visible in the corner.} (C. Doyle) {"How do I know that you have been getting yourself very wet lately, and that you have a most clumsy and careless servant girl?" [...] Holmes chuckled to himself and rubbed his long, nervous hands together. "It is simplicity itself," said he; "my eyes tell me that on the inside of your left shoe, just where the firelight strikes it, the leather is scored by six almost parallel cuts. Obviously they have been caused by someone who has very carelessly scraped round the edges of the sole in order to remove crusted mud from it. Hence, you see, my double deduction that you had been out in vile weather, and that you had a particularly malignant boot-slitting specimen of the London slavey [= maidservant]."} (C. Doyle) Has my wife been talking to you? He smells like he's been working all day. The staff give the slight impression that they haven't been doing this for very long. I wake up three hours later with my exposed arm completely numb – perhaps a ghost has been sleeping on it. {Have you been tidying up? Do you have piles of paper and old electronics to recycle? Shoes and eyeglasses that no longer spark joy? Save the Date for PMQ Shred Day on 9/21/2019 at Alice Deal Middle School} My dear child, you are not well; you have been doing too much. (O. Wilde) From the silence that prevails, I conclude that Laudesdale has been telling a joke. (Richard Brinsley-Sheridan) {Turn your face to the light. (She places him facing the window.) My boy is not looking well. Has he been overworking?} (G. B. Shaw) I can see that somebody has been wearing that coat of mine. Have you been using some new product in your hair? {The lock on this case is broken. Have you been playing with it?} {Who told you that? Have you been watching me?} It seems to me someone's been pulling our legs. I think somebody's been playing a trick on you again. I can see that you've been digging the garden. {Do you imagine a stressed-out professional shouting, 'BUY!' Or 'SELL!' on the phone all day? Then you have been watching too many movies. Here is the reality. A mutual fund analyst's job is much more refined and methodical.} Sometimes I start crying when I've been laughing too hard.

Someone has been eating my chocolate – I wonder who. Don't kiss me – you have been eating onions, haven't you? I must go now, or my brother will guess that I have been speaking to you. {That's why you haven't any appetite – you've been buying sweet cakes.} I have been looking at your library – you read a lot of theology? You have been touching some wet paint! Someone has been monkeying with [= manipulieren] the lock on the door. If you believe in cyber-terrorism, you have been reading too much Tom Clancy. What have my eyes been doing overnight to produce pronounced bags under them when I awake? It was the kind of laugh that makes you feel like you have been eating bread with sand in it. Contamination by cold (= Verkühlung-) germs is especially likely if a person has been travelling, and if they have been travelling in cramped economy class in particular. {What's that on your hands and face? Have you been eating sweets?} {My poor little girl! What have they been doing to you?} {Like many people I started to research online what my husband's mystery illness was; I saw his symptoms matched those of someone with a brain tumour. Sad to say the consultant we saw at The Royal Surrey Hospital did not agree and said: "Madam, you've been watching too many medical dramas on TV!"} He is rather angry, because he has been waiting for an hour. I'm not sure if I've just been watching the wrong programmes, but it's the first time I've ever seen the reality of war in Afghanistan up this close. Eddie, you have lost your front tooth – have you been fighting again? You've got rings round your eyes and I know you've not been sleeping. {"For heaven's sake!" she exclaimed, taking hold of his sleeve. "Has a dog been chewing on this?"} {More often than not, sexual guilt is deep-seated. This means that, ever since you were a child, your mother has been implying (in all sort of subtle and nefarious ways) that sex is disgusting, dirty, nasty, vile, reprehensible, shameful and creepy. Mothers do this all the time.} {"James!" she cried, loudly enough even to be heard even over those wails. "What have you been doing to that child?"} The remnants of peanut shell upon your best waistcoat speak all too plainly of the fact that you have been amusing yourself by feeding the monkeys. I have more than once caught a look of the strongest disapprobation in Stapleton's face when Sir Henry has been paying some attention to his sister. (C. Doyle) "Everyone has been feeding you with a lot of propaganda," he said. Nelly, have you been mixing your medications again?

Bisweilen ist eine nähere Interpretation erforderlich:

{I have been dining with Arabella this evening! By Jove! You should have heard what she said about Mrs. Erlynne. She didn't leave a rag on her.} (O. Wilde) *Das Dinner ist jedenfalls vorbei und fand auch an einem anderen Ort statt (man siehe auch die past tense "said"), aber dieses Dinner hat dem Sprecher interessante Informationen vermittelt (beiläufig, also ungeplant), deshalb steht das present perfect progressive "I have been dining" und nicht "I dined".*

{Dear Margaret, I've just been having such a delightful chat with Mrs. Erlynne. I am so sorry for what I said to you this afternoon about her. Of course, she must be all right if you invite her. A most attractive woman, and has such sensible views on life.} (O. Wilde) *Der "chat" ist jedenfalls Vergangenheit, aber die Sprecherin steht noch ganz unter seinem Eindruck, der auch relevant für das augenblickliche Gespräch ist.*

{I ran to Judge Thatcher's house as quickly as I could. "Hello, Huckleberry, why have you been running? Did you come to ask me about your money? Do you need a few dollars?"} (Mark Twain). – *Man weiß nicht genau, ob Judge Thatcher Huckleberry noch laufen sah, oder nur sein erhitztes Gesicht. Interessant ist jedenfalls auch die past tense im nächsten Satz (Did you come ...), wobei der Bezug zur Gegenwart noch im darauffolgenden Satz unterstrichen wird: Do you need a few dollars? Das ist vermutlich dem American English geschuldet, wo öfters die past tense anstatt einer present perfect tense verwendet wird.*

"If you have walked all night, you will be tired," the innkeeper said. – *Hier gibt es zwar ein unbeabsichtigtes Ergebnis (= die Müdigkeit nach einem langen Marsch), aber der Wirt spricht nur eine Folge Ursache – Wirkung an. Möglich auch: If you have been walking all night, you will be tired.*

Um eine Zeitstufe in die Vergangenheit verschoben (nach den Regeln der Zeitenfolge – sequence of tenses), steht dann die past perfect tense progressive:

Onlookers suspected that he had been **drinking**, an accusation he denied. At the parking lot I started puking my brains out from all the Scotch I'd been drinking. He stumbled and staggered as though he had been drinking heavily. {It was something none of us had ever done before. It would be risky enough sober. But if we'd been drinking?} I looked at him and wondered what he had been smoking or drinking. An artificial leg in the lost property department at Bristol Police H.Q. has been claimed by a Scotsman who said that he had been

drinking. The next morning one of our officers, who had been drinking all night, made a terrible mistake. The man had been drinking a bottle of gin when he fell asleep. He had been drinking heavily in the bar before the accident.

Vergleiche: The way he was talking he might have been drinking. – *Hier wird die progressive form durch einen progressive infinitive ersetzt – es geht aber um dasselbe Prinzip der unbeabsichtigten Folgewirkung.*

His teammate Tony Tarasco, who was with him, had also been **smoking** marijuana, two people familiar with the incident said. "Marijuana cigarettes were found at the scene," noted the paper, although the two ballet dancers had to be released as there was no evidence that they had been smoking them. If in 1998 you told a venture capitalist that Henry Blodget – or any Wall Street analyst – would ultimately be held responsible for anything, he would have wondered what you had been smoking. I had no idea what these miscreants had been smoking, but I'd never known anyone to become violent because of marijuana; quite the opposite.

Her face was very pale and I knew that she had been **crying**. It was obvious that Helen had been crying. Her face was pale and smudged with traces of mascara; she had clearly been crying. Bailey was coming towards me, wiping his eyes; he had been crying, too. She sounded as though she had been crying. He'd been crying and was visibly shaken. She had been crying, her cheeks still moist. Her eyelids, he noticed, were red; she had been crying. She saw to her amazement that he had been crying. She looked as if she had been crying all night. Either she had a cold or she had been crying, for her eyes were raw. {Elsie's eyelids were red. She had been crying.} She always looked as though she had been crying. He wiped his eyes – he had been crying, too.

Weitere Beispiele: {And the way he dressed! He looked as if he had been playing golf.} {I didn't know very much about that; I had been doing other kinds of things.} They had aprons on, because they had been working in the kitchen. {I was in top condition. When I came back to my platoon, they all asked if I had been taking steroids.} {When P. Glasgow heard all this in the evening, he was very grave. He had evidently been reflecting.} (Frank Stockton) He was breathing hard – he had clearly been running. {She had entered Mary Barton's employment only a few months before. Mary Barton had brought her abroad, and the very day after they landed the tragedy had occurred. And they were both nice, commonplace, refined Englishwomen! The whole thing was fantastic, and I told myself so. I had been letting my imagination run away with me.} (A. Christie) He had been running and was still out of breath. He looked as though he had been running. I thought he had been reading too many western scripts. Dick had just been having a great deal of trouble with Jake, and was in low spirits when they saw him. As I walked toward the hut, I saw that someone had certainly been using it. I noticed that she had obviously been cleaning the flat. The skid marks indicated that she had been driving too fast. It had been raining and water was lying on the surface. The contusion was much less noticeable, but I think she had been applying powder. I couldn't concentrate at all – maybe I had not been getting enough sleep. I heard a chair fall in the next room; someone had been listening. She noticed that some animals had been digging in the garden. {"Why didn't you kiss me when I walked in?" – "Oh, I'd been eating garlic, that's all."} I gathered from her remarks that she had been reading in the evening paper a report of this morning's proceedings in the police court. They were cold and stiff – they had been sitting in the open boats for three hours. His cheeks were bright as if he had been using cosmetics. When Aunt Polly saw Tom's clothes, she knew that he had been fighting. (Mark Twain) He looked as if he had been working too hard lately. Her cheeks were bright, as if she had been using cosmetics. I saw that the knees of his trousers were dirty – clearly he had been digging for hours. His hair was rough from the wind, for he had been sitting outside in the dark. The milk was bitter because the cows had been eating onions. I realised that I was feeling a bit tired, which was not altogether surprising, since for ten days we had been getting up at 3:15 in the morning, getting to bed normally about 11 at night. We had been training hard and needed a break. You looked as if you'd been watching some frightful gruesome operation, white as a sheet and all. (Sinclair Lewis) He was upset over a letter he had been reading. She hadn't been playing much music and had lost some dexterity. He was charged with attempting to murder his wife and his best pal, who had apparently been having an affair. It had been raining hard and the river was in flood. She killed herself because several classmates had been bullying her. {The group had been travelling for many days. They were tired, hot and thirsty.} {The boy, an embarrassed grin on his face, didn't answer the teacher's question. He didn't know what to say. He had been talking to Sally about a date.}

Und es gibt Fälle, wo eine progressive form nicht möglich ist:

{An instant later I heard him running down, and he burst into my consulting room like a man who is mad with panic. "Who has been in my room?" he cried.} (C. Doyle) (*"Who has been being in my room?" ist kein idiomatisches Englisch.*)

I am sorry to knock you up so early, doctor," said he, "but I have had a very serious accident during the night. (C. Doyle) (*"Have been having a serious accident" ist kein idiomatisches Englisch, weil ein Unfall eine sekundliche Sache ist. Dagegen sehr wohl: Residents in nearby rural areas are having - and have been having - a serious bird problem.*)

Wrinkles should merely show where the smiles have been. (Mark Twain) (*"... where the smiles have been being" ist kein idiomatisches Englisch.*)

His bed has been slept in, as you can see. (*"His bed has been being slept in" ist kein idiomatisches Englisch.*)

4.4. "Verbs not generally used in the continuous tenses"

Es gibt eine Reihe von Verben, die "normalerweise" nicht in der progressive form gebraucht werden, z.B. I have known him longer than you. – *"I have been knowing" ist grundsätzlich nicht möglich.* How long have you guys known each other? – *"How long have you guys been knowing each other?" ist grundsätzlich nicht möglich.*

Hier folgen (alphabetische) Beispiele (im Rahmen der present perfect tense), wo dies doch der Fall ist:

This is something I have been **dreading** all along. In the morning she flies to Boston to deliver the bacculaureate address at Radcliffe, an event she has been dreading. The day that the American automobile industry has been dreading for years arrived today. Mariella replies, "I've been dreading this question." These are the words we've all been dreading. "I've been dreading coming here to see this," he said. "I've been dreading this moment," Gerrard said, taking the microphone.

Then what she had been dreading happened.

Later he realized that the sound he'd been **hearing** for a long time in a dream was really the sound of the washing machine. Billy Kellems, a 37-year old truck driver in Kokomo, has been hearing a hum since 1999. We have been hearing their howling at nights for years. We have been hearing gunfire for the past three days. Since yesterday we have been hearing the rumble of artillery fire in the distance.

Wenn es um akustische Wahrnehmung geht, steht bei "to hear" in der Regel nur die simple form; im Sinn von "gesagt bekommen / erfahren" ist die progressive form dagegen gang und gäbe:

I have been hearing complaints by progressives and liberals about President Obama. For years now we have been hearing how healthy the Mediterranean diet is. I have been hearing those words for many years. "Of course you've been hearing all about the engagement from mother [*sic*]," she cried. (Saki) I'm afraid I have been hearing some strange things about you recently. For 30 years I have been hearing that a cure for cancer is just a few years away. I've been hearing this story for 65 years. For years, we have been hearing stories from sex-trafficking survivors, but the general reaction has been passive, though sympathetic. That is very different from what I have been hearing over the past weeks from the Cuban people I know and love.

Mr. Ferrara has been **loving** his children and working on his home in southern Brooklyn. Japan has been loving the Gundam animes series for 30 years, and in June, toy maker Bandai erected a 60-foot, moving Gundam robot statue in Odaiba, a futuristic island in Tokyo bay. Chinn, a native Ohioan, lives in Mexico and has been loving it for 10 years. I've been loving watching people fall under her spell. I have been loving Lancôme's Hypnose Mascara — it builds curls and lengthens my lashes. I've been loving riding this year, it's been like a breath of fresh air. Mr. Ferrara has been loving his children and working on his home in southern Brooklyn. The BBC Symphony Orchestra players have been loving it because it's exciting to take on different grooves from what they're used to.

I've been **meaning** to mention it for some time. There's one thing I've been meaning to ask you. I have been meaning to repair for some time. Ever since you sent me that note I've been meaning to speak to you. I've been meaning to talk to you for some time. I've been meaning to phone you about Friday.

Hier gilt es zu unterscheiden: "To mean" im Sinn von "bedeuten" gestattet keine progressive form, wohl aber "to mean" im Sinn von "beabsichtigen / planen". Die vier o.a. Sätze sind also regulär und korrekt.

I've been **owning** horses since 1969. She has been owning winning horses back to the late Chip's days. I have been owning my car for five years now. She has been owning this house for the past five years. {Blaine Banks Moore of Winnsboro is featured in the International Texas Longhorn Association's Magazine, The Longhorn Drover. She has been owning and showing Longhorns for 3 years and in 2019 won 3 steers and numerous buckles, banners and other awards, including a herdmanship award.}

I have been **seeing** angels since I was a baby. {I should make it clear that Amie and I have a lot of experience with ghosts. I have been seeing them since I was a child, when a small yellow gnome crawled up my leg and told me the year I would die.} {I have been seeing and hearing them ever since we got here. – What do you mean? – I have seen and heard them. In this house. Their voices, their ... forms.} I have been seeing spots in front of my eyes.

Wenn "to see" etwas anderes bedeutet als "visuell wahrnehmen", dann ist die progressive form gang und gäbe: There is Nancy, this American girl I have been seeing. I've been seeing the same girl now for seven months. Have you been seeing a man? Since then she has been seeing a consultant at the British Institute of Ophthalmology. Inevitably, we have been seeing a backlash. The situation I've been seeing over the past week is almost a carbon copy of what I witnessed when I was here last, in 2012. I've been seeing the show so often lately. A man I'd been seeing broke a date with no explanation.

"Let me tell you something that I've been **wanting** to say for the last two or three minutes," said the Baroness. (Saki) Thank you ever so much for those lovely handkerchiefs, they were just what I've been wanting. (Saki) That's exactly what you've been wanting for your collection all along. Me and my pals here have been wanting a word with you for some time. (E. Waugh) I've finally done what I've always been wanting to do. This is the boy you've all been wanting to meet. (Evelyn Waugh) I've been wanting to see you for ages. It was exactly what she had been wanting to do all afternoon. I have been wanting to write this book since I was very young. I've been wanting to do that since we met. I've been wanting to talk to you. I have been wanting to kiss you ever since I set eyes on you. I have been wanting you to meet Margot for a long time. I have been wanting this house since 1999, and I'm going to take it. There is something I have been wanting to tell you for some time now. I've been wanting to talk to you for days. Simon McBurney is a friend and we have been wanting to do something together for so long. Mr Jones, I've been wanting to talk to you. There is one thing I have been wanting to ask you. Thank you so much for your lovely handkerchiefs, they were just what I have been wanting. (Saki)

I hadn't been to Rome before, but I had been wanting to go there for about as long as I could remember. {Everyone had his liquor, and some, like me, had purchased other items, too. I carried an AM/FM radio, which I had been wanting.} He finally said what he'd been wanting to say all evening.

"To want" kann auch eine ganz andere Bedeutung haben: "fehlen". Hier ist die progressive form kein Problem:

{It is therefore evident that, ascend as high as we may, we cannot, literally speaking, arrive at a limit beyond which *no* atmosphere is to be found. It *must exist*, I argued; although it *may exist* in a state of infinite rarefaction. On the other hand, I was aware that arguments have not been wanting to prove the existence of a real and definite limit to the atmosphere, beyond which there is absolutely no air whatsoever.} (E. A. Poe) However, these data have been wanting. Sometimes the results have been splendid, and sometimes they have been wanting.

There is something I've been **wishing** to speak to you about. But the film's finale does not quite offer the happy resolution we've been wishing for. But he has been wishing for a summer house closer to New York. If that's what you've been wishing for, your wishes are to come true. I've been wishing for this all my life. "I just want to say too that so many people over the years have been wishing this for me," Scorsese said, Oscar in hand. There's just one thing I've been wishing for: I want to be Bobby's girl.

They had been wishing for this day to come. For days I'd been wishing that my friends had come with me on the voyage. I had been wishing that I had put more money into the show.

5. Bemerkungen zur past perfect tense

Die past perfect tense drückt grundsätzlich jene Zeitstufe aus, die am weitesten vergangen ist – sie ist zeitlich vor der past tense angesiedelt, d.h. quasi "älter" als die past tense.

4.1. Es finden sich aber auch öfters (Neben)sätze, wo dieses Vorher-Nachher nicht eingehalten wird, und eine zu erwartende past perfect tense durch eine past tense ersetzt wird (siehe auch 2.3. auf Seite 25):

{About that time I met an old friend of mine at the beach at our home town of Far Rockaway, where we grew (⇒ *had grown?*) up together. We had gone to school together when we were about eleven or twelve.} (Richard Feynman)

I was fascinated by it: it was the biggest lock I ever saw (⇒ *had ever seen?*). (Richard Feynman)

I had not been in a crowd since I was (⇒ *had been*) wounded, and the noise and crush were very alarming to me.

Had anyone visited you in your room after the papers came (⇒ *had come?*) to you? (C. Doyle)

Ever since I started (⇒ *had started?*) going to school, my father had tried to encourage me to bring my friends back to the filling station for tea or supper. (R. Dahl)

She seemed to be six inches taller than when he saw (⇒ *had seen?*) her last.

He had known her since she was (⇒ *had been*) a child.

The woman had been strangled as she lay (⇒ *had lain*) in bed.

Ähnlich: We saw that they had been stabbed to death as they slept (⇒ *had slept*).

The Republican Guards had fought ferociously, even as some regular army units were throwing (⇒ *had been throwing*) off their uniforms and fleeing.

He had been walking across the courtyard when the missile hit (⇒ *had hit*).

He had felt a stab of disappointment when he found out the night before that he was not chosen (⇒ *had not been chosen*).

Much of the money he earned (⇒ *had earned*) he had also spent.

He had been dreading the day since he was (⇒ *had been*) small.

A week would pass before the engineers learned that, while they had been creeping through the minefield that night, they were being watched (⇒ *had been being watched*) by Iraqi soldiers.

Anmerkung: Zugegeben – "*had been being watched*" ist eine Form (past perfect passive progressive), die auch ein native speaker kaum verwenden würde. Grammatikalisch ist sie aber korrekt:

People were buying back the euro because that is the currency that had been being shorted the most against the dollar.

In a sort of Solomonic decision, the Fed approved a cap of 21 to 24 cents a transaction, down from an average of 44 cents that had been being charged.

The straw that broke the adorably nice camel's back, she explained, was when a hack of Sony emails last year revealed she had been being paid substantially less than her male co-workers on films she had starred in.

The celebrated figure had been being cared for full-time by staff at a nursing home where he lived (⇒ *had lived?*) with his wife Sheila Sim, also 92.

But we all knew it was over before the fire started – the camp had been being demolished for a few days, the refugees knew they were leaving and never coming back.

The same day, Iranian officials said a US-registered plane which landed in Tehran earlier in the week, causing international comment given US sanctions against Iran, had been being used by a mining delegation from Ghana.

Asked if the Iranian broadcaster's channels had been being blocked as a result of the sanctions, a YouTube spokeswoman refused to speak on the record about any specific channel.

She was in tears, she was crying, visibly shaking because she realized what they were saying — that she had been being used by D'Amico.

One of the police officers went to investigate and realized that the man was the suspect that had been being sought in the bombings.

Übrigens funktioniert "had been being" nicht nur in Passivsätzen: Walker, who said that one of his most important jobs had been being the "commander in chief of the Wisconsin National Guard," expressed concern about the decline in the number of U.S. troops in Europe compared to the Cold War period.

4.2. Es gibt aber auch Fälle, wo eine past perfect tense anstatt einer zu erwartenden past tense steht:

{There's more reason to be hopeful: animal organs and artificial hearts are helping to treat waitlist patients, while other new technologies can revive some hearts that had stopped (⇒ *stopped?* ⇒ *have stopped?*) beating for an extended time.

My father had been (⇒ *was?*) fifty-nine years old when he died with pancreatic cancer. (Jimmy Carter)

I had actually known (⇒ *actually knew*) Rosalynn Smith, my future wife, since she was born. (Jimmy Carter)

He shows a photo of a young man visiting a grave of a friend who had taken (⇒ *took?*) his own life.

Some of David Copperfield's experiences are autobiographical – they are based on things that had happened (⇒ *happened?*) to Charles Dickens himself. – *Die present tense (2 x "are") past grundsätzlich nicht mit einer past perfect tense zusammen. Hier könnte man allerdings eine implizite past tense interpolieren: Some of David Copperfield's experiences that the author included are autobiographical – they are based on things that had happened (⇒ *happened?*) to Charles Dickens himself.*

In some relatively rare cases, a child who had been developing (⇒ *was developing?* ⇒ *has been developing?*) normally starts to regress and loses the ability to communicate.

"Wonderful!" she cried, "this quite fits in with all that I had heard (⇒ *all that I heard?*)." (C. Doyle)

So powerful had the experience [= A-levels] been (⇒ *was the experience*) for me as a pupil that I still have a dream that I'm sitting at a desk in a large examination hall.

The gendarmes believed that at the moment of impact she had been (⇒ *was?*) sleeping.

I know that I hadn't been doing (⇒ *wasn't doing*) well.

Outside circumstances are changing faster than had been assumed (⇒ *was assumed*) when the overall strategy had been set (⇒ *was set*).

{The change is not always a benign one. On the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico, Mayan women who as infants had been fed (⇒ *were fed*) in the traditional way – on milk from their mothers' breasts – are now feeding their own infants on formula [= *Babymilchpulver*] from a bottle.}

Es gibt Fälle, die erschließen sich erst auf den zweiten Blick:

The vessel had broken her propeller-shaft about ten days before, since when she had been drifting helplessly. – *Auf den erste Blick sieht "had been drifting helplessly" falsch aus, weil das ja nach dem Propellerschaftbruch (= past past perfect tense) geschah. Wieso also nicht "was drifting helplessly"? Weil hier als Bezugspunkt jener Zeitpunkt zu nehmen ist, auf den sich "ten days before" bezieht – und von dieser Warte aus sind sowohl der Bruch als auch das hilflose Treiben danach vorzeitig, deshalb 2 x past perfect tense.*

Zwei Kuriosa:

The tree, which had been damaged in a storm, had been felled. *Wenn man von "The tree had been felled" als Hauptsatz ausgeht, dann fehlt der englischen Sprache hier eine Zeitform, die eine noch weiter zurückliegende*

Zeit als die *past perfect tense* beschreibt, also sozusagen eine *“past past perfect tense“*. Aber so eine *tense* gibt es nicht – hier muss die *“normale“ past perfect tense* ausreichen.

He had changed into the same black leather jacket he had been wearing when I first met him. – Wenn man die erste *past perfect tense* als starting point akzeptiert, dann fehlte auch hier eine *“past past perfect tense“* anstatt *“had been wearing“* und erst recht anstatt *“met“*.

Ändert man allerdings das initiale *“had changed“* zur *past tense “changed“*, dann passt zwar *“had been wearing“*, aber nicht die *past tense “met“* (⇒ *had met*):

6. Hybrid past tense

“Hybrid past tense“ ist ein Terminus, den es (noch) gar nicht gibt. Der Verfasser schlägt ihn vor für die Form *“hadn’t have + past participle“*. Offenbar ist das eine Perfekt-Form der gesprochenen Sprache für Konditionalsätze.

Die folgenden Beispiele kommen größtenteils von der Website www.ludwig.guru – das bedeutet, sie stammen sämtlich aus reputierlichen Quellen. Beim *“hybrid past“* handelt es sich somit nicht um eine vernachlässigbare Laune der englischen Sprache, die vielleicht nur irgendwo in den schottischen Highlands gepflegt würde.

{What if I hadn’t have looked at the photographs? I’d have failed, without any doubt.} If I hadn’t have looked at the answer I would have never got it. I never would have found if I hadn’t have looked at the mountain and then the map and thought, “What’s up there?” If I hadn’t have done that, I wouldn’t have survived. If that hadn’t have happened I wouldn’t be sitting here. Obama wouldn’t have visited Norway if it hadn’t have been for the Nobel Peace Prize. But if we hadn’t have made the trade, we could have been pretty bad next year. If I hadn’t have had a husband I wouldn’t have done it. If it hadn’t have been acting, though, I guess it would have been music. If I hadn’t have seen him near home I would have said his hair was gold. And then, perhaps, back home to contemplate what might have happened if it hadn’t have been for that meddling kid. But would you be here if that riot hadn’t have happened? “If the kidnapping hadn’t have happened,” she said, “I don’t even want to think about where I would be.” If I hadn’t have become a runner I would definitely be a zoologist now. “I would never have come if it hadn’t have been for Albert,” he says. He wouldn’t have died if they hadn’t have tasered him several times. If it hadn’t have been for drugs, I wouldn’t have become involved in crime. If it hadn’t have been for Thurgood Marshall, I don’t know what would have happened. But if I hadn’t have had that, I could see myself drowning. “If he hadn’t have stopped, my head would have been crushed,” Mr. Serrano said. “I would have been surprised if he hadn’t have been able to go,” Randolph said. If Kenny hadn’t have left, he would probably have supported me. If he hadn’t have done it he wouldn’t be having the problems he’s having now. I’d give anything if I hadn’t have done that. If we hadn’t have found her, we would have lost everything. I would probably still be using it if I hadn’t have sold it. If it hadn’t have been for the phalanx of reporters, no one would have known anything out of the ordinary had happened. If Bruno hadn’t have been fouled he’d have scored that goal in the first half too. I probably wouldn’t have started learning German if it hadn’t have been for the crisis. If we hadn’t have won I’d be very disappointed. If we hadn’t have been able to win them over then the club would have gone bankrupt. If it hadn’t have been for my family I would be dead now. If I hadn’t have brought it up you probably wouldn’t have known about the whole ordeal. If the IRA hadn’t have killed our mother, God knows, she still might be alive today. If he hadn’t have made that decision I think we would have been losing at half-time. If he hadn’t have come along, would someone else have built a database powerhouse in similar fashion? If it hadn’t have hit his hand it would have hit his face. If I hadn’t have made a mistake I’d have been on the front row. If I hadn’t have given everything I had, I would go back. But I would have had nightmares if I hadn’t have taken it. If they hadn’t have been there, I don’t know what I would have done. {I ask Bob what his life would be like if he hadn’t met Jim Moir that night in New Cross. “I wonder that occasionally, when I’m on a bus or something. I sit and think, ‘Fuck, if I hadn’t have gone to that club. Fuck...’“} {Wendy Bush revealed that she’d had a lump removed from her breasts after reading the *Sun’s* campaign. She said she probably wouldn’t have checked her breast if it hadn’t have been for Page 3.} I’d be on the street and penniless if I hadn’t have done it. If I hadn’t have had that protector, I don’t know what would

have happened. If I hadn't have had a girlfriend who looked after me for that year I would have probably ended up in a psychiatric unit. If a couple of inspectors from the Ministry of Forests hadn't have stumbled across this abuse, would it have ever been reported? If you hadn't have been here, I don't think I would have managed. It would have remained undiscovered if we hadn't have found the letter. If we hadn't have moved, I'd have gone insane and ended up in a lunatic asylum. If you hadn't have told me, then that would have been cheating. She would have done it if you hadn't have been there. You would've killed them if I hadn't have stopped you. I'd have been proud of it even if it hadn't have been mine. If you guys hadn't have come, maybe none of this would have happened. And look, if I hadn't have done it, someone else would've. If you hadn't have been there to help her, she might not have found it. None of this would have been possible if you hadn't have gotten those contracts renewed. And I probably would still be that way if I hadn't have met the girls. If it hadn't have been for you, I would've drowned in all that rain. If I hadn't have used the wrong credit card at this bar, then we would all be in the clear. What would you have done if that hadn't have been me? If you hadn't have done it, I would have. If she hadn't have done that, maybe she'd still be alive. He would have died if I hadn't have helped. You could've lived in peace, undisturbed, if you hadn't have been so sentimental. If it hadn't have been for Bobbi, I would never have made it out. If I hadn't have done it, they'd have sent someone else.

Der Verfasser hat diese "hybrid past tense" in keiner Grammatik behandelt gefunden, allerdings zitiert sie Frederick T. Wood in "Current English Usage" (unter dem Stichwort "perfect") ausdrücklich als Fehler (und benennt sie mit "the double perfect". Als Beispiele gibt er zwei Sätze an: I should never have believed it if I hadn't have seen it with my own eyes. He would have walked straight into the trap if you hadn't have warned him of it in time.

Umgangssprachlich findet man die "hybrid past tense" auch nach "to wish":

I wish I hadn't have given you my gun. I wish you hadn't have done this, Liz. I wish she hadn't have told you that. I really wish you hadn't have gone to these lengths for me. I wish you hadn't have shown me these, Magdalena. I wish I hadn't have said those things. And believe me, I wish they hadn't have found anything. That was the one thing I wish we hadn't have done.

Gänzlich aberrant sind die nächsten beiden Beispiele:

{The submarine was about 5 foot or 6 long, rigid, so it wouldn't have gone round corners or round any obstacles. It wouldn't hadn't have made the first 50 meters into the cave from the dive start point.} If he hadn't have went, it may have taken him 5, 6, 8, 10 years to get back on his feet.

Die "hybrid past tense" scheint so etwas wie ein U-Boot in der englischen Grammatik zu sein, oder ein Flugzeug, das unter dem Radar fliegt. Allerdings gibt es im Deutschen ein vergleichbares Phänomen, wenn auch nicht so verborgen. Im Schulunterricht kommt es allerdings auch nicht vor. Es handelt sich um zwei Zeiten, die vom DUDEN (Wörterbuch der sprachlichen Zweifelsfälle) als "Doppelperfekt" und "Doppelplusquamperfekt" bezeichnet werden:

"Formen wie *habe gesagt gehabt* und *hatte gesagt gehabt* Doppelperfekt und Doppelplusquamperfekt genannt, weil sie mit zwei Partizipien II gebildet werden. Das Partizip II kommt also quasi ,doppelt' vor. [...] Beispiele aus literarischen Texten belegen, dass ihr Gebrauch nicht auf die gesprochene Sprache beschränkt ist: In dem Augenblick fühlte er sich am linken Arm ergriffen und zugleich einen sehr heftigen Schmerz. Mignon *hatte sich versteckt gehabt, hatte ihn angefasst* und ihn in den Arm *gebissen*. (Goethe: Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre). Und unter der Haustüre, während er sich schon aufs Sitzen und Essen freute, musste er plötzlich an Emma denken. Er *hatte sie den ganzen Vormittag vergessen gehabt* (Hesse: Unterm Rad)."