

10-28-2021 High Beginning and Low Intermediate Lesson

Introduce yourself. Tell where you are from and where you live now. Tell how long you have been in the United States.

BEEN or BEING

These words can be confusing because they sound similar. They are both forms of the "to be" verb. But they are used differently.

Read the examples:

I have been here before.

He is being lazy today.

She is being rude to the man.

She has been rude to him in the past.

Note that BEEN is always used after the verb HAVE. BEEN is the past participle of the "to be" verb.

He has been here for two days.

We have been there many times

She has been very helpful.

Your daughter has been so nice to us.

My cousins have been to France several times.

BEING is never used after HAVE.

He has been here for two days. NOT He has being here for two days.

We have been there before. NOT We have being there before.

She has been very helpful. NOT She has being very helpful.

Your daughter has been so nice. NOT Your daughter has being so nice.

We have been busy. NOT We have being busy.

We use BEEN in perfect continuous tenses. Read the examples. The present perfect continuous verb is underlined.

1. They have been watching us.
2. We have been looking at apartments in Austin.
3. I have been living in Austin for several months.
4. The children have been studying English.
5. We have been planning a vacation.

We use BEING with the verb IS, AM, ARE, WAS, WERE. This is called the present continuous tense. We use BEING to talk about how someone is acting or behaving.

My son is being bad. (My son is not behaving nicely right now.)

My son is bad. (My son is always bad.)

The children are being noisy. Please take them to their room. (They are acting noisy.)

The children are noisy. (Children are always noisy)

Tanya: I am afraid to go into that dark room.

Sara: You are being silly. There is nothing to be afraid of.

Mother: Please save a piece of cake for your father.

Daughter: No. I will eat all of the cake.

Mother: You are being selfish. Shame on you!

Child: Is he hurting the kitten?

Mother: No, he is being very careful not to hurt the kitten.

We also use BEING in the **passive** voice. BEING is followed in the sentence by the past participle of a verb.

Read these examples:

Active: The police were watching him.

Passive: He was being watched by the police.

Active: The maids are cleaning the office.

Passive: The office is being cleaned by the maids.

Active: The police followed the thief. OR The police are following the thief.

Passive: The thief is being followed by the police.

Active: The teacher punished the children. OR The teacher is punishing the children.

Passive: The children were being punished by the teacher.

Test yourself: Put BEEN or BEING in the blank.

1. You have _____ a bad boy.
2. We have _____ here for two months.
3. Have the eggs _____ cooked?
4. The teacher said the children were _____ loud.
5. Mother's paintings are _____ sold at the market.
6. Life has _____ good to us.
7. Mommy, I am _____ a good girl.
8. My car is _____ repaired.
9. The music is _____ recorded.
10. We haven't _____ able to contact her.
11. The wood is _____ loaded onto the truck.
12. They have _____ loading the wood onto the truck.

Using BEING and BEEN in conversations.

Lee: Should I take the baby into the nursery?

Hannah: No, she is being quiet right now. In fact, she has been quiet all morning.

Mona: Is the baby being quiet?

Les: Yes, she has been very quiet.

Tammy: Where is the film being shown?

Beth: It is being shown at two downtown theaters.

In the conversations below, BEING is used as a gerund. A gerund is an ING verb that doesn't function as a verb in the sentence.

EX: The baby started being fussy a few minutes ago. (Started is the verb, Being fussy is the object of the sentence.)
She loves being famous.

Mother: Has the baby been fussing all morning?

Babysitter: No, she has been very quiet. She just started being fussy.

Dad: I was being careful not to wake the sleeping children. But then I tripped on the stairs. I made a lot of noise.

Mom: Did the children wake up?

Dad: I'm not sure. I don't hear any noise from their room. They are being very quiet if they are awake.

Mom: They have been sleeping for hours. You probably didn't wake them up.



A Helpful Mother-in-Law

Jennifer and Shane are newlyweds. These days, they're both working very long hours. They feel exhausted when they get home at night. Their apartment is a mess. Their laundry basket is full. Their refrigerator is empty. They eat peanut butter sandwiches for dinner. One evening, Shane looks at the calendar and says, "My mother is coming on Saturday."

1. *Why are Jennifer and Shane exhausted?*
2. *Describe Jennifer and Shane's life in their apartment.*

"Oh, this is not a good time. Look at this place," says Jennifer. Jennifer doesn't really know her mother-in-law, Evelyn. She only met her once before the wedding. Evelyn lives 3,000 miles away. Jennifer is happy that Evelyn lives far away. She has heard her friends talk about their mother-in-laws. Jennifer thinks mother-in-laws cause problems. "Can't you tell her not to come?" asks Jennifer. "It's just not a good time to have company." Shane says, "She already paid for her tickets. It wouldn't be fair to make her cancel her trip." Jennifer agrees with Shane.

1. *Does Jennifer know Evelyn well?*
2. *Why is Jennifer happy that Evelyn lives very far away?*
3. *Why doesn't Shane want to tell his mother not to come?*

Evelyn arrives on Saturday. She is a lovely person and very helpful. When Jennifer and Shane are at work, Evelyn cleans the apartment. She does the laundry. She shops for food. She cooks delicious meals. Jennifer loves coming home to a clean house and eating good meals. Jennifer thinks Evelyn is the best mother-in-law in the world.

What does Evelyn do while Shane and Jennifer are at work?

Jennifer asks Evelyn if she can stay longer. "No, I can't," says Evelyn. "I have to go home tomorrow."

"When can you come back?" asks Jennifer.

"Maybe next year," answers Evelyn. "Three thousand miles is a long way. It's very expensive to travel."

"You're right," says Jennifer. Jennifer turns to Shane. "We live too far away from your mother," says Jennifer. "I want to move close to her."

1. *What does Jennifer want Evelyn to do?*
2. *When does Evelyn plan to come back?*
3. *What does Jennifer tell Shane they should do?*
4. *Do you have a good relationship with your mother-in-law?*