

Unit 5 – What Are You Waiting For?

VOCABULARY

Time expressions

spend time doing
waste time doing
spend a period of time doing
pass the time
lose time

a waste of time/money/
space, etc.

Wasting time

waiting for a bus
being stuck in traffic
queuing
looking for something

Approximate language

almost, not quite, just, under, nearly, close to

exactly, precisely

more or less, approximately,
roughly, about

or more, plus, more than, over

Generalising

The average Briton spends ...
In Britain people waste ...
People waste about ...
Londoners spend ...

GRAMMAR

Talking about duration

How long have you been waiting?
I've been waiting **for half an hour**.

How long does it take you to get to work?
It **takes** me **25 minutes** to get to work. (We use the verb *take* to talk about duration.)

How many hours a week do you spend doing exercise?
About three or four.

Present perfect continuous

We use the present perfect continuous to talk about the duration of activities that are continuing.

I **have been waiting** here for 20 minutes. (I am still waiting.)

The present perfect continuous is formed by: auxiliary *have* + *been* + *-ing* form of verb.

Compare this to:

I **was waiting** for 20 minutes. (I am NOT waiting now.)

How long **have you been waiting?** (Question)

I **haven't been waiting** more than an hour. (Negation)

USEFUL PHRASES

Apologising and making excuses

Have you been waiting long?

Sorry I'm late.

I'm terribly sorry.

I was caught in traffic.

The traffic was terrible.

It took me over an hour to get here.

I had trouble finding a taxi.

It took me over half an hour to find one.

Saying numbers and times

Numbers

2 ½ = two and a half

2 ¼ = two and a quarter

205 = two hundred and five

215 = two hundred and fifteen

250 = two hundred and fifty

Times

2:05 = five past two

2:15 = two fifteen / a quarter past two

2:30 = two thirty / half past two

4:55 = five to five

5:05 = five past five