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Test Your Grammar Skills

Using Present Perfect Continuous – have/has been + -ing

All of the residents of The Pine Trees Nursing Home in Orlando Avenue have gathered in the lounge for their weekly residents' meeting. The duty manager asks them what they have been doing all morning.

A) Complete the gaps below using the following words:

drying chatting washing visiting putting waiting throwing
feeding clearing knitting staring watching doing sitting
watering playing writing reading having trying on

1. Jack says, "I've been _____ the plants in my room."
2. Mabel says: "I've been _____ the dishes in the kitchen."
3. Dolly says: "I've been _____ a letter to my great grand-daughter."
4. Arif says: "I've been _____ a quiz programme on TV."
5. Austin says: "I've been _____ the breakfast table."
6. Dorothy says: "I've been _____ the Guardian crossword."
7. Barry says: "I've been _____ the budgies."
8. Les says: "I've been _____ out of the window."
9. Harjinder says: "I've been _____ some new clothes."
10. Patrick says: "I've been _____ to my friends."
11. Gracie says: "I've been _____ photos in my photo album."
12. Maria says: "I've been _____ a sweater for my great niece."
13. Thora says: "I've been _____ in my armchair having a little sleep."
14. Hermione says: "I've been _____ my hair."
15. Jemima says: "I've been _____ my sister-in-law in hospital."
16. Barney says: "I've been _____ an argument with my daughter."
17. Samson says: "I've been _____ to have a go on the computer."
18. Luka says: "I've been _____ an interesting book about Russia."
19. Jonathan says: "I've been _____ pool with one of the nurses."
20. Thomas says: "I've been _____ food at people I don't like."

B) Ask and answer questions about the residents. For example: "What has Jack been doing?"

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Answers:

1. watering
2. washing *or* drying
3. writing
4. watching
5. clearing
6. doing
7. feeding
8. staring
9. trying on
10. chatting
11. putting
12. knitting
13. sitting
14. drying *or* washing
15. visiting
16. having
17. waiting
18. reading
19. playing
20. throwing