

# 02 PERSONAL PROFILES

## In this lesson

- Revise and extend uses of the present perfect simple and continuous.
- Use active listening in conversation.
- Practise talking to someone about a special interest.

### Effective reading

Set clear reading goals when reading magazine articles or stories.

- Before you read, ask yourself what you would like to find out.
- Don't try to understand every word; just find answers to the questions you have set yourself.

### Text A

**Micki Pistorious** is South Africa's only forensic psychologist. Since 1994 she has compiled psychological profiles on at least eight serial killers. Her greatest triumph to date has been her role in the capture of Cape Town's 'Station Strangler' who had killed twenty-two boys. The police had made no progress in catching him since he first struck in 1986 so they called in Micki. 'I said he'd be in his late twenties, a teacher or a policeman who lived with his folks, very neat, and with a decent car.' The profile led to Norman Simon, a 28-year-old teacher.

Micki's marriage has become a casualty of her career. 'I thought it would be unfair to stay married. I can be away for weeks on end. But I couldn't give up the job. The 'high', the feeling of satisfaction you get when you've helped detectives find a serial killer, is unbelievable. It's addictive.' However, she has no social life outside work, and spends weekends alone reading about serial killers.

*She magazine*

## Speak for yourself

- 1 On average, how long do you spend each week on ...?
  - your personal appearance
  - a hobby or pastime
  - a sport or keeping fit
  - work or study
- 2 What do people often become obsessed by? Note three ideas under each heading.

TEENAGERS

MIDDLE-AGED PEOPLE

THE ELDERLY

## Reading

### Setting goals

- 1 In pairs, **A** read Text A, **B** read Text B. Complete the chart for your text. Exchange information with your partner.

	Text A	Text B
1	the obsession	
2	when/how it started	
3	what motivates them	
4	the effect it has on their life	

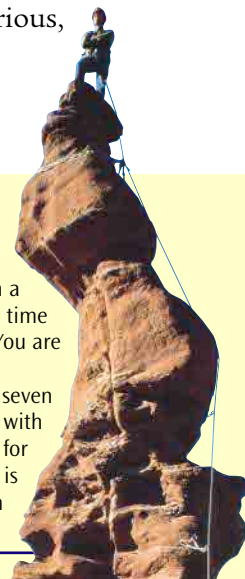
- 2 Highlight words/phrases which show the level of their obsessions.  
*Micki – I couldn't give up the job.*
- 3 Talk again to a partner about the obsessions of Micki Pistorious, Michael Bane, or someone you know. Use at least three expressions from the texts.

### Text B

**Michael Bane** was a 39-year-old wimp when he began an epic journey through the world of extreme sports. Ever since he was caught in a frightening storm one day while windsurfing, he just can't get enough of danger. Since then he has taken up thirteen extreme sports ranging from skydiving to ice-climbing. He has taken part in a downhill mountain bike race at night, and paddled over a waterfall. 'There's never a time that's so clear as when failure in what you're doing can mean your death', he said. 'You are more focused and intense, and you can bring that into the things you do every day.'

One benefit is that he can keep office stress in proportion. 'After being trapped for seven days in a snowstorm in Alaska I have a good idea of what a bad day is.' Familiarity with danger creates a fierce desire for risk. 'It becomes so commonplace that you look for something new to test yourself', Bane believes. The price of being hooked on risk is high. In the past month he has lost one friend on a deep dive in Egypt and another in white water in Colorado.

*The Sunday Times*



## Forms of the present perfect

### Grammar revisited

1 Correct these sentences. Explain why they are wrong.

- 1 A few years ago he has been trapped in a snowstorm.
- 2 She is a forensic psychologist since 1986.
- 3 Did you ever go sky-diving? No, never.
- 4 Did you see that film yet?
- 5 Sorry I'm late. Have you waited a long time?
- 6 So far, she has been helping them to solve more than twelve crimes.
- 7 How long have you been knowing Michael?
- 8 I'm studying English since I was at school.

2 Check your answers in the Summary on p.9.

### Grammar plus

The present perfect simple can also be used:

- with superlative constructions.  
*That was the best meal I've ever eaten.*
- when a clause begins with *this / that / it + be + the first / second, etc. time*.  
*This is the second time I've been to England.*

The present perfect continuous can also be used:

- to describe the present visible results of a past activity.  
*Have you been crying? Your eyes are all red.*
- to talk about a series of repeated but finished actions leading up to the present.  
*I've been trying to ring all morning but his number is always engaged.*

3 Complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

- 1 'Is this the first time you \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) here?' 'And the last. I don't think I \_\_\_\_\_ (ever have) such an awful meal.'

- 2 Jill looks like a tomato because she \_\_\_\_\_ (sunbathe) by the pool all day.
- 3 This is the second time I \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Florence. I love it here.
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him to clear up his room all week but it doesn't make any difference. I think I \_\_\_\_\_ (ask) him about twenty times.
- 5 'You're out of breath. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you do)?' 'I \_\_\_\_\_ (chop) wood for the fire all morning.'



### Against the clock!

Set a time limit

4 In pairs, complete the text. Use the verbs in brackets.

One day, Alfred David's wife 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (tell) him that he walked like a penguin. Since then, his identification with the creatures 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (become) almost total. For the past twenty-five years he 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (walk) around in a penguin suit. People in his home town in Belgium long ago 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (accept) this harmless eccentric as part of the scenery. All this time, he 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (collect) penguin objects, and so far he 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (accumulate) over two thousand. A few years ago he 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (open) the European Museum of the Penguin. As far as anyone knows, he 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (never go) to Antarctica but this 9 \_\_\_\_\_ (not stop) him from making friends among the penguin population. Since his fascination 10 \_\_\_\_\_ (develop) he 11 \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) tons of fish to feed his 'friends and family' in the local zoo. If he looks more and more like one it could be because he 12 \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) too much raw fish himself.

## PENGUIN MAN



## Listening

### Active listening



1 Listen to Justin, who collects Swatch watches, talking to Saskia. Why are these numbers and times important?

98      12 years ago      24 hours      £1,000      £50,000

- 2 Listen again. How does Justin show his enthusiasm for his hobby?
- 3 How does Saskia show that she is actively listening to what Justin says? Find examples in the Tapescript on pp.112/113.



4 Listen and copy the intonation. What happens to the words in italics?

- 1 So how long *have you been* collecting them, Justin?
- 2 *For* about eleven or twelve years, I suppose.
- 3 I used *to* travel a lot with my job.
- 4 I thought they *were* bright *and* cheerful.
- 5 Sometimes it's hard *to* choose.

5 In pairs find out about your partner's hobbies or pastimes. Tell the rest of the class.



## Speak out

### Talking about a hobby

1 In pairs, look at the two pictures. Then **A** turn to p.108, **B** to p.110. Complete the notes about your person's hobby.

	Tom Payne	Louise Wilkinson
• their normal job		
• what the hobby is		
• how long they've been doing it		
• when they normally do it		
• what it involves		
• if it needs any special clothes/equipment		
• if it involves other people		

2 Imagine that you are the person in the text you read. Interview each other. Find out as much as you can.

#### Think before you speak

- Use present perfect simple and continuous constructions correctly.
- Use weak forms as naturally as you can.
- Communicate your enthusiasm about your hobby.
- Show that you are actively listening to the other person.

## SUMMARY

### The present perfect simple

#### Form

subject + *have/has* + past participle  
*He has just arrived.*

#### Use

- to talk about a completed action or experience in the past without saying exactly when it happened.  
*I've been to Germany three times.*  
 With a finished past time expression, use the past simple.  
*I went to Germany last week/two years ago/in 1980.*
- when something which started in the past continues up to the present.  
*They've lived in the same house for thirty years.*
- to talk about recent events.  
*I've just bought a new car.*
- when a past action is visible in the present.  
*Your hair looks nice. Have you been to the hairdresser's?*

### The present perfect continuous

#### Form

subject + *have/has been* + present participle  
*He has been living here since May.*

#### Use

- if we want to focus more on the extended action than the result.  
*I feel exhausted because I've been working hard all day.*  
 When there is a focus on completion, use the present perfect simple.  
*I've finished that book. I really enjoyed it.*
- if we want to suggest that something is temporary.  
*I've been staying with my sister for the last couple of weeks.*
- to talk about repeated actions and events.  
*I've been playing a lot of tennis recently.*  
 When the number of times an action has occurred is specified, use the present perfect simple.  
*I've already had three coffees this morning.*