CONTINUOUS / SIMPLE TENSES

**CONTINUOUS**

- focus on activity
- focus on its execution
- speaker visualizes the moment

1. He is typing a letter.  
   (at the moment)
2. He was typing a letter.  
   (when I called)
3. He will be typing a letter.  
   (at this time tomorrow)
4. He has been typing letters.  
   (all morning)

**SIMPLE**

- neutral
- factual
- result more important than activity

5. He types letters.  
   (every weekend)
6. He typed a letter.  
   (before going to bed)
7. He will type a letter.  
   (as soon as he gets home)
8. He has typed loads of letters.  
   (since he got his typewriter)

UNFINISHED ACTION

She started driving 6 hours ago.
She is still driving now.

- 6 a.m. [date]
- we left home [date]
- this morning [date]

1. She has been driving SINCE [date]
2. She has been driving all morning. [period]
3. She has been driving FOR six hours. [period]
4. He has wanted to be a doctor SINCE the age of ten.
5. He has been like that SINCE this morning.
6. I have known him SINCE I arrived here.
7. We have had this cat FOR two years.
8. He has not spoken to her FOR three days.

PASSIVE

1. He has been taken to the hospital.
2. Penicillin was discovered by Fleming.
3. Your trousers need mending.

4. He [is made] to do this
   [is being made]

5. The kids are being looked after.
6. He was given a $50,000 reward.
7. He was said to be a good driver.
8. We've been told to go home.
9. An AIDS vaccine might be discovered in the next few years.