

One of the **top ten** errors you must not make

Been and *being*

Get it right!





been

Use with the verb “to have”
to refer to a **completed action**



being

Use when referring to a **continuous**
action



The mental process

- Is the action completed?
- Is it working with the verb “to have”?

been

- Is it not working with the verb “to have”?
- Is the action continuous?

being



Examples



I have **been** into town.

-the action is completed and it's working with the verb “to have”



Where have you **been**?

-action is completed and it's working
with the verb “to have”

He didn't know where I had
been.

-action is completed and it's working
with the verb "to have"

I was **being** difficult.

- action is continuous and it's working with the verb "to be" (*was*) instead of "to have"



Being tall, I had to duck.

-action is continuous (his tallness continued while he ducked) and there's no verb "to have" working with it

Been to the shops today?

-action is completed and would be working with the verb “to have” if it wasn’t missed out (full version “Have you been to the shops today?”)