

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 1 Lesson 2

Grammar

In this lesson you will learn

<i>Grammar: Present perfect and past Part 1 (Unit 7-12)</i>	<i>Completed</i>		<i>Your Score</i>
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	
❖ Unit 7: Present perfect 1 (<i>I have done</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 8: Present perfect 2 (<i>I have done</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 9: Present perfect continuous (<i>I have been doing</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 10: Present perfect continuous and simple (<i>I have been doing and I have done</i>)	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 11: <i>how long have you (been)...</i> ?	☐	☐	/
❖ Unit 12: <i>for</i> and <i>since</i> <i>when...?</i> and <i>how long...?</i>	☐	☐	/

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom can't find his key.
He's **lost** his key. (= He **has lost** ...)

he **has lost** his key =
he lost it and he doesn't have it now

have lost / **has lost** is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	finished lost done been etc.
he/she/it	has (= he's etc.)	

The present perfect simple is **have/has** + *past participle*. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished**ed**/decided**ed** etc.), but many verbs are *irregular* (**lost**/**done**/**written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B When we say 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (= There **has been** ...)
- ☐ Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- ☐ Tom **has lost** his key. (= he doesn't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ Sally is still here. She **hasn't gone** out. (= she is here *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= do you know where it is *now*?)

Compare **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Amy is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

C You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

Already = sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to pay the bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. We use **yet** to show that we are expecting something to happen.

We use **yet** in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has** it **stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

D You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- ☐ Ben isn't here. He's **gone** out. or He **went** out.
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and complete the sentences using the present perfect. Choose from these verbs:

break disappear go up grow improve ~~lose~~ shrink stop

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | Tom <u>has lost his key.</u> |
| 2 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English |
| 3 My bag was here, but it isn't here any more. | My bag |
| 4 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | Lisa |
| 5 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. | The bus fare |
| 6 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | Dan |
| 7 It was raining ten minutes ago. It isn't raining now. | It |
| 8 I washed my sweater, and now it's too small for me. | My sweater |

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- My parents are on holiday. They've gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Tom has just out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. I don't know where she's
- You're very late. Where have you

7.3 Complete the sentences using the present perfect.

- Sally is still here. She hasn't gone (she / not / go) out.
- I can't find my bag. (you / see / it) anywhere?
- I can't log on to the website. (I / forget) my password.
- I sent Joe an email this morning, but (he / not / reply).
- Is the meeting still going on, or (it / finish)?
- (the weather / change). It's colder now.
- (you / not / sign) the form. Could you sign it now, please?
- Are your friends still here, or (they / go) home?
- Paul doesn't know what he's going to do.
(he / not / decide / yet).
- 'Do you know where Julia is?' 'Yes, (I / just / see / her).'
- 'When is David going away?' '..... (he / already / go).'
- A: (your course / start / yet)?
B: Not yet. It starts next week.

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

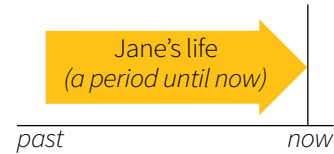
- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'
You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'
You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away.
You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says,
'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- You know that Lisa is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful.
You ask her: ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going
for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- Laura went out, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Laura still out?'
You say: No, (come back)

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A

Study this example conversation:

- DAVE: **Have you travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? **Have you ever been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane **has visited** in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

In the same way we say:

- ☐ **Have you ever eaten** caviar?
- ☐ We've never **had** a car.
- ☐ I don't know what the film is about. I **haven't seen** it.
- ☐ Susan really loves that book. She's **read** it three times. (She's = She **has**)
- ☐ It's a really boring movie. It's the most boring movie I've **ever seen**.

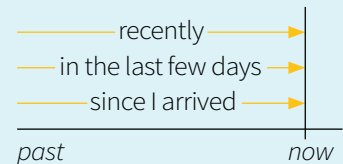
been (to) = visited:

- ☐ I've never **been to** Canada. Have you **been** there?

B

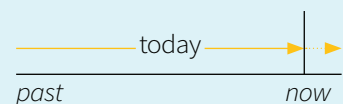
In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently, in the last few days, so far, since I arrived** etc.):

- ☐ **Have you heard** anything from Ben **recently**?
- ☐ I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- ☐ Everything is going well. There **haven't been** any problems **so far**.
- ☐ The weather is bad here. It's (= It **has**) **rained** every day **since I arrived**. (= from when I arrived until now)
- ☐ It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.



In the same way we use the present perfect with **today, this evening, this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking:

- ☐ I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- ☐ **Have you had** a holiday **this year**?
- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. **Have you**?



C

We say 'It's the (first) time something **has happened**'. For example:

Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first lesson.
 We can say:

- ☐ It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)
- or He **hasn't driven** a car **before**.
- or He **has never driven** a car **before**.

In the same way we say:

- ☐ Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- ☐ Andy is phoning his girlfriend again. It's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with **ever**.

- 1 (ride / horse?) *Have you ever ridden a horse?*
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen ~~have~~ have ~~meet~~ play read see try

- | A | B |
|---|---|
| 1 What's Mark's sister like? | I've no idea. <i>I've never met</i> her. |
| 2 Is everything going well? | Yes, we <i>haven't had</i> any problems so far. |
| 3 Are you hungry? | Yes. I much today. |
| 4 Can you play chess? | Yes, but for ages. |
| 5 Are you enjoying your holiday? | Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time. |
| 6 What's that book about? | I don't know. it. |
| 7 Is Brussels an interesting place? | I've no idea. there. |
| 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday. | Yes, it's the second time this month. |
| 9 Do you like caviar? | I don't know. it. |
| 10 Mike was late for work again today. | Again? He late every day this week. |
| 11 Who's that woman by the door? | I don't know. her before. |

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use **I haven't** and choose from the boxes.

used a computer travelled by bus eaten any fruit
been to the cinema read a book lost anything

- 1 *I haven't used a computer today.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

today
this week
recently
for ages
since ...
this year

8.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 Jack is driving a car for the first time. He's very nervous and not sure what to do.
It's the first time he's driven a car.
- 2 Some children at the zoo are looking at a giraffe. They've never seen one before.
It's the first time a giraffe.
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
She before.
- 4 Joe and Lisa are on holiday in Japan. They've been to Japan once before.
This is the second time
- 5 Emily is staying at the Prince Hotel. She stayed there a few years ago.
It's not the first this hotel.
- 6 Ben is playing tennis for the first time. He's a complete beginner.
..... before.

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A It's been raining.

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It's been raining. (= It **has** been ...)**have/has been + -ing** is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	have has	(= I've etc.) (= he's etc.)	been	doing working learning etc.
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We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped:

- ☐ Why are you out of breath? **Have you been running?**
- ☐ Paul is very tired. **He's been working** hard.
- ☐ Why are you so tired? What **have you been doing?**
- ☐ I've **been talking** to Amanda and she agrees with me.
- ☐ Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you.

have/has been + -ing
present perfect continuous

now

B It's been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?****It's been raining** for two hours. (= It **has** been ...)We use the present perfect continuous in this way, especially with **how long**, **for ...** and **since ...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- ☐ **How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- ☐ Ben is watching TV. **He's been watching** TV all day.
- ☐ Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- ☐ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for repeated actions:

- ☐ Silvia is a very good tennis player. She's **been playing** **since she was eight**.
- ☐ Every morning they meet in the same cafe. They've **been going** there **for years**.

C Compare I am doing and I have been doing:

I am doing
present continuous

now

- ☐ Don't disturb me now. I'm **working**.
- ☐ We need an umbrella. It's **raining**.
- ☐ Hurry up! We're **waiting**.

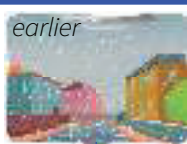
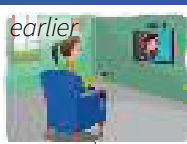
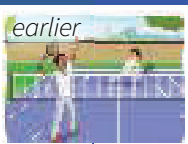
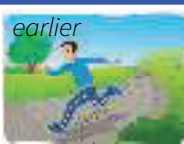
I have been doing
present perfect continuous

now

- ☐ I've **been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. It's **been raining**.
- ☐ We've **been waiting** for an hour.

Exercises

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

1 earlier  now  It's been raining.	2 earlier  now  She	3 earlier  now  They	4 earlier  now  He
--	---	--	--

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- You meet Kate as she is leaving the swimming pool. You say:
Hi, Kate. (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- You have arrived a little late to meet Ben who is waiting for you. You say:
I'm sorry I'm late, Ben. (you / wait / long?)
- Jane's little boy comes into the house with a very dirty face and dirty hands. His mother says:
Why are you so dirty? (what / you / do?)
- You are in a shop and see Anna. You didn't know she worked there. You say:
Hi, Anna. (how long / you / work / here?)
- A friend tells you about his job – he sells phones. You say:
You sell phones? (how long / you / do / that?)

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Japanese. I started classes in December.
I since December.
- Jessica is working in a hotel. She started working there on 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
- Our friends always go to Italy for their holidays. The first time was years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (am/is/are + -ing) or present perfect continuous (have/has been + -ing).

- Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- Hi, Tom. (I / look) for you. I need to ask you something.
- Why (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- Rachel is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
- (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, (he / work).'
- Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.
- It's dangerous to use your phone when (you / drive).
- Laura (travel) in South America for the last three months.

Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A

Compare these two situations:



There is paint on Kate's clothes. She **has been painting** her bedroom.

has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



The bedroom was green. Now it is yellow. She **has painted** her bedroom.

has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. 'She **has painted**' is a completed action. We are thinking about the *result* of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ My hands are very dirty. I've been repairing my bike. ☐ Joe has been eating too much recently. He should eat less. ☐ It's nice to see you again. What have you been doing since we last met? ☐ Where have you been? Have you been playing tennis? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☐ My bike is OK again now. I've repaired it. (= I've finished repairing it) ☐ Somebody has eaten all the chocolates. The box is empty. ☐ Where's the book I gave you? What have you done with it? ☐ Have you ever played tennis? |
|--|---|

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- ☐ How long **have you been reading** that book?
- ☐ Amy is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- ☐ They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much, how many* or *how many times* (for completed actions):

- ☐ How many pages of that book **have you read**?
- ☐ Amy **has sent** lots of emails this morning.
- ☐ They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know**) are not normally used in continuous forms (**be + -ing**):

- ☐ I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (*not* I've been knowing)
- ☐ How long **have you had** that camera? (*not* have you been having)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous (**have/has been + -ing**):

- ☐ I've **been meaning** to phone Anna, but I keep forgetting.

Exercises

10.1 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

- Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
He has been reading for two hours. (read)
He has read 53 pages so far. (read)
- Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe. She began her trip three months ago.
She for three months. (travel)
..... six countries so far. (visit)
- Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was 10 years old. This year he won the national championship again – for the fourth time.
..... the national championship four times. (win)
..... since he was ten. (play)
- When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.
They films since they left college. (make)
..... five films since they left college. (make)

10.2 Ask questions using the words in brackets. Use the present perfect simple (have/has done) or continuous (have/has been doing).

- You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(wait / long?) Have
- You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(catch / any fish?)
- Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?)
- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?)
- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?)
(how long / write / books?)
- A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:
(how long / save?)
(how much money / save?)

10.3 Put the verb into the present perfect simple or continuous.

- Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?
- Look! (somebody / break) that window.
- You look tired. (you / work) hard?
- ‘..... (you / ever / work) in a factory?’ ‘No, never.’
- Where’s Lisa? Where (she / go)?
- This is a very old book. (I / have) it since I was a child.
- ‘Have you been busy?’ ‘No, (I / watch) TV.’
- My brother is an actor. (he / appear) in several films.
- ‘Sorry I’m late.’ ‘That’s all right. (I / not / wait) long.’
- Are you OK? You look as if (you / cry).
- ‘Is it still raining?’ ‘No, (it / stop).’
- The children are tired now. (they / play) in the garden.
- (I / lose) my phone. (you / see) it?
- (I / read) the book you lent me, but
..... (I / not / finish) it yet. It’s really interesting.
- (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.

how long have you (been) ... ?

A Study this example situation:



Dan and Kate are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (*present*)

but How long have they **been** married?
 (not How long are they married?)
 They **have been** married **for 20 years**.
 (not They are married for 20 years)

(*present perfect*)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now.

Compare the *present* and *present perfect*:

- ☐ Paul is in hospital.
- but He's **been** in hospital **since Monday**. (= He **has** been ...)
(not Paul is in hospital since Monday)
- ☐ We **know** each other very well.
- but We've **known** each other **for a long time**.
(not We know)
- ☐ Do they **have** a car?
- but How long **have** they **had** their car?
- ☐ She's **waiting** for somebody.
- but She **hasn't been** waiting very long.

present
 he is
 we know
 do they have
 she is waiting

present perfect
 he has been
 we have known
 have they had
 she has been waiting

past

now

B I've known / I've had / I've lived etc. is the *present perfect simple*.
 I've been learning / I've been waiting etc. is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- ☐ I've **been learning** English **since January**.
- ☐ It's **been raining** **all morning**.
- ☐ Richard **has been doing** the same job **for 20 years**.
- ☐ 'How long **have** you **been driving**?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, **know** and **like**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ How long **have** you **known** Jane? (*not have you been knowing*)
- ☐ I've **had** these shoes for ages. (*not I've been having*)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For **have**, see Unit 17.

C You can use either the continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- ☐ Julia **has been living** in this house for a long time. *or* Julia **has lived** ...
- ☐ How long **have** you **been working** here? *or* How long **have** you **worked** here?

But we use the simple (**have lived** etc.) with **always**:

- ☐ I've **always lived** in the country. (*not always been living*)

D We say 'I **haven't** (done something) **since/for** ...' (*present perfect simple*):

- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **since Monday**. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- ☐ Sarah **hasn't phoned** for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

Exercises

11.1 Which is right?

- Ben is a friend of mine. I know / ~~I've known~~ him very well. (I know is correct)
- I like your house. How long do you live / have you lived here?
- You'll need an umbrella if you go out now. It's raining / It's been raining.
- The weather is / has been awful since I arrived here.
- I'm sorry I'm late. Are you waiting / Have you been waiting long?
- We've moved. We're living / We've been living in New Street now.
- I met Maria only recently. I don't know / I haven't known her very long.
- Lisa is in Germany. She's / She's been there on a business trip.
- That's a very old bike. How long do you have / have you had it?
- I'm not feeling good. I'm feeling / I've been feeling ill all day.

11.2 Read the situations and write questions using the words in brackets.

- A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / Paul / hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?
- You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:
(how long / you / know / Katherine?)
- Your friend's sister went to Australia some time ago and she's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / sister / in Australia?)
- You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / you / teach / English?)
- Tom always wears the same jacket. It's very old. You ask him:
(how long / you / have / that jacket?)
- You are talking to a friend about Joe, who now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / Joe / work / airport?)
- You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(you / always / live / in Chicago?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

A

- Paul is in hospital, isn't he?
- Do you see Lisa very often?
- Is Paul married?
- Is Amy married?
- Do you still play tennis?
- Are you waiting for the bus?
- You know Mel, don't you?
- Jack is never ill, is he?
- Martin lives in Italy, doesn't he?
- Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she?
- Is Joe watching TV?
- Do you watch TV a lot?
- Do you have a headache?
- Do you go to the cinema a lot?
- Would you like to go to New York one day?

B

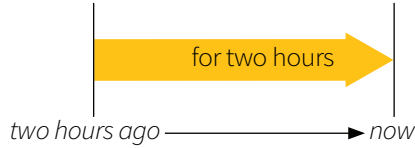
- Yes, he has been in hospital since Monday.
- No, I haven't seen her for three months.
- Yes, he married for ten years.
- Yes, she married to a German guy.
- No, I tennis for years.
- Yes, I for about 20 minutes.
- Yes, we each other a long time.
- No, he ill since I've known him.
- Yes, he in Milan.
- Yes, she in Berlin for many years.
- Yes, he TV all evening.
- No, I TV since last weekend.
- Yes, I a headache all morning.
- No, I to the cinema for ages.
- Yes, I to go to New York.
- (use **always** / **want**)

for and since when ... ? and how long ... ?

A We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** + a period of time:

- ☐ We've been waiting **for two hours**.



for		
two hours	a long time	a week
20 minutes	six months	ages
five days	50 years	years

- ☐ Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not since six months*)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **for three days**.

We use **since** + the start of a period:

- ☐ We've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.



since		
8 o'clock	April	lunchtime
Monday	2001	we arrived
12 May	Christmas	I got up

- ☐ Sally has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**.

B We often leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- ☐ They've been married **for ten years**. or They've been married **ten years**.
- ☐ They **haven't had** a holiday **for** ten years. (you need **for**)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ... etc.**):

- ☐ They **haven't had** a holiday **in ten years**. (= **for** ten years)

We do *not* use **for** + **all ...** (**all day** / **all my life** etc.):

- ☐ I've lived here **all my life**. (*not for all my life*)

C Compare **when ... ?** (+ *past simple*) and **how long ... ?** (+ *present perfect*):



A: **When** did it start raining?

B: It started raining **an hour ago** / **at 1 o'clock**.

A: **How long** has it been raining?

B: It's been raining **for an hour** / **since 1 o'clock**.



A: **When** did Joe and Kate first meet?

B: They first met { **a long time ago**.
when they were at school.

A: **How long** have they known each other?

B: They've known each other { **for a long time**.
since they were at school.

D We say:

it's (= it is)	a long time	since something happened
or it's been (= it has been)	six months (etc.)	

- ☐ **It's two years since** I last saw Joe. or **It's been two years since ...**
(= I **haven't seen** Joe for two years)
- ☐ **It's ages since** we went to the cinema. or **It's been ages since ...**
(= We **haven't been** to the cinema for ages)
- ☐ **How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? or **How long has it been since ...**
(= when did she die?)

Exercises

12.1 Write **for** or **since**.

- 1 It's been raining since lunchtime.
- 2 Paul has lived in Brazil ten years.
- 3 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here an hour.
- 4 Kevin has been looking for a job he left school.
- 5 I haven't been to a party ages.
- 6 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him last week.
- 7 Jane is away on holiday. She's been away Friday.
- 8 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.

12.2 Look at each answer and choose the right question.

- | | | |
|---|---|---------------------|
| 1 | <div>How long have they been married?</div> <div>When did they get married?</div> | Ten years ago. |
| (When did they get married? <i>is correct</i>) | | |
| 2 | <div>How long have you had this car?</div> <div>When did you buy this car?</div> | About five years. |
| 3 | <div>How long have you been waiting?</div> <div>When did you get here?</div> | Only a few minutes. |
| 4 | <div>How long have you been doing your course?</div> <div>When did your course start?</div> | September. |
| 5 | <div>How long has Anna been in London?</div> <div>When did Anna arrive in London?</div> | Last week. |
| 6 | <div>How long have you known each other?</div> <div>When did you first meet each other?</div> | A long time. |

12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.
- 3 Mark is unwell. He became ill on Sunday. He has Sunday.
- 4 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got
- 5 You have a headache. It started when you woke up.
I've I woke up.
- 6 Sue is in a meeting at work. It's been going on since 9 o'clock.
The meeting at 9 o'clock.
- 7 You're working in a hotel. You started working there six months ago.
I've been
- 8 Kate is learning Japanese. She's been doing this for a long time.
Kate started

12.4 Complete B's sentences.

- | | A | B |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Do you often go on holiday? | No, I <u>haven't had a holiday for</u> five years. |
| 2 | Have you seen Lisa recently? | No, I about a month. |
| 3 | Do you still go swimming regularly? | No, I a long time. |
| 4 | Do you still ride a bike these days? | No, I ages. |

Now write B's answers again. This time use **It's ... since ...**.

- 5 (1) No, it's five years since I last had a holiday.
- 6 (2) No, it's
- 7 (3) No,
- 8 (4)