

UNIT 19

Present perfect with **how long** and past simple with **when** **Since and for**

a) Use the *past simple* (I did) to ask or say *when* something happened:

- A: **When** did it start raining?
- B: It **started** raining *at one o'clock / an hour ago*.
- A: **When** did Tom and Ann first meet?
- B: They first met *when they were at school / a long time ago*.

Use the *present perfect* (I have done / I have been doing) to ask or say *how long* something has been happening (up to the present):

- A: **How long** has it been raining?
- B: It's been raining *since one o'clock / for an hour*.
- A: **How long** have Tom and Ann known each other?
- B: They've known each other *since they were at school / for a long time*.

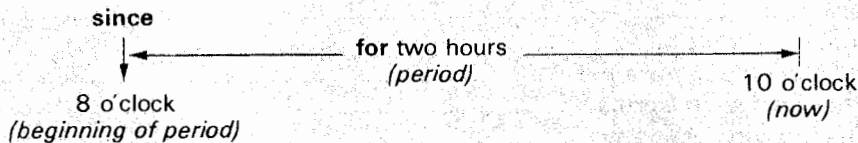
b) **Since and for**

We use both **since** and **for** to say how long something has been happening:

- I've been waiting for you **since** 8 o'clock.
- I've been waiting for you **for** two hours.

We use **since** when we say the beginning of the period (8 o'clock).

We use **for** when we say the period of time (two hours).



since		for	
8 o'clock	1977	two hours	a week
Monday	Christmas	ten minutes	five years
12 May	lunchtime	three days	a long time
April	we arrived	six months	ages

- She's been working here **since** April. (= from April until now)
- She's been working here **for** six months. (*not* 'since six months')
- I haven't seen Tom **since** Monday. (= from Monday until now)
- I haven't seen Tom **for** three days. (*not* 'since three days')

We do not use **for** in expressions with all (*all day / all morning / all week / all my life* etc.):

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

c) Note the structure **How long is it since ...?**:

- A: **How long is it since** you had a holiday?
- B: It's two years **since** I had a holiday. (= I haven't had a holiday for two years.)
- It's **ages since** Tom visited us. (= He hasn't visited us for ages.)

UNIT 19 Exercises

19.1 In this exercise you have to write questions with **how long** and **when**.

Example: It is raining. (how long / it / rain?) How long has it been raining?
(when / it / start / raining?) When did it start raining?

1 Ann is learning Italian.

(how long / she / learn / Italian?)

(when / she / begin / learning Italian?)

2 I know Tom.

(how long / you / know / Tom?)

(when / you / first / meet / Tom?)

3 Bob and Alice are married.

(how long / they / be / married?)

(when / they / get / married?)

19.2 In this exercise you have to put in **since** or **for**.

Example: Tom and I have known each other for six months.

1 It's been raining I got up this morning.

2 Tom's father has been a policeman 20 years.

3 Have you been learning English a long time?

4 Christmas, the weather has been quite mild.

5 Ann has been on holiday three days.

6 That's a very old car. I've had it ages.

19.3 This time you have to make a new sentence beginning in the way shown.

Examples: I know Tom. I first met him six months ago. I have known him for six months.

It's been raining since 2 o'clock. It started raining at two o'clock.

1 Tom's ill. He became ill three days ago. He has

2 We have been married for five years. We got

3 Jim has a beard. He grew it ten years ago. He has

4 He has been in France for three weeks. He went

5 He has had his new car since February. He bought

19.4 In this exercise you have to imagine that two people are talking. You have to make sentences with **It's ... since ...**

Example: A: Do you often go on holiday? (no / five years)

B: No, it's five years since I went on holiday.

1 A: Do you often eat in restaurants? (no / six months)

B: No, it

2 A: Does it often snow here? (no / years)

B: No,

3 A: Do you often play cards? (no / a long time)

B: