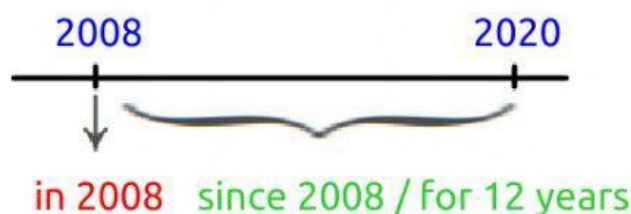


Rephrasing: last / for / since / ago – 1

a) Study these examples; they all have the same meaning:



We last **worked** together in 2008.

We last **worked** together **twelve years ago**.

The last time we **worked** together was in 2008.

The last time we **worked** together was **twelve years ago**.

We **haven't worked** together **since** 2008.

We **haven't worked** together **for** twelve years.

We **have worked** separately **since** 2008.

We **have worked** separately **for** twelve years.

Pay attention to the verb tense:

We use the **past simple** to refer to an event at a specific moment in the past:

We last **talked** yesterday.
He last **played** a computer game in 2008.

We can also define a moment in the past and refer to that time to specify the duration of an action or situation:

I last **took** a bus two months **ago**.

We use the **present perfect** with periods of time, which can be defined in two ways:

- By their duration, i.e., how long:

I **haven't played** bridge **for** two weeks.

- By the time up to the present **since** an event happened:

I **haven't seen** him **since** I was a kid.

b) Complete these sentences without changing the meaning of the original one:

1. The last time I went to Paris was when I got married.
I haven't
2. I last played basketball three years ago.
I haven't
3. We last met in 2015.
We haven't
4. It's ten years now since I met her.
I have known
5. When was the last time you had your eyesight checked?
When did
6. It has been a long time since they last came to visit us.
They haven't
7. The last time I spoke to her was at her wedding.
I haven't
8. Our agent hasn't contacted us since the day he left the flat.
Our agent
9. We last had a full staff at this school many years ago.
We've had fewer teachers
10. I haven't had steak and kidney pie since I last was in England.
I
11. I last heard from them when they phoned me from the beach.
I
12. The Stock Exchange hasn't hit 200 points for two years.
The Stock Exchange last
13. The Prime Minister last mentioned this topic on Monday.
The Prime Minister
14. I haven't seen Paul for three hours.
I last