Rephrasing: last / for / since / ago – 1

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



in 2008 since 2008 / for 12 years

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