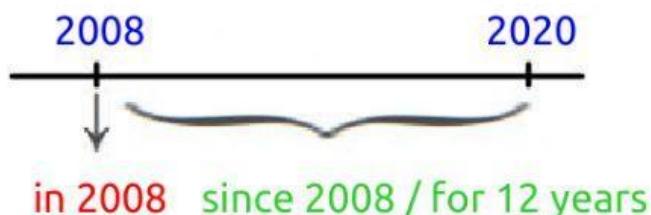


for / since / ago - 1

a) Study these examples; they all have the same meaning (imagine we are still in 2020):



They invented the bitcoin in 2008.

They invented the bitcoin twelve years ago.

We have had bitcoins since 2008.

We have had bitcoins for twelve years.

Tesla made its first car in 2008.

Tesla made its first car twelve years ago.

Tesla has been making cars since 2008.

Tesla has been making cars 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:

I last **saw** him yesterday.
He last **visited** me in 2008.

We can also refer to an action in the past to specify the duration of an action or situation:

I last **took** a bus two months **ago**.
He **started** working in this company three years **ago**.

We use the **present perfect** (for a finished action) or the **present perfect continuous** (for an action in progress) when we talk about the duration of a period of time, which can be defined in two ways:

- Specifying its duration, i.e., how long:

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

We **have been** playing poker **for** three hours!

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

I **haven't** seen him **since** I was a kid.
They **have been** playing on the computer **since** they finished breakfast.

b) Complete these sentences with the correct option (you must use each option only once):

1. My phone is really old-fashioned, I bought it ...
2. It makes me feel special to know that God loves me ...
3. We have had an Internet connection at home ...
4. I've been trying to solve this maths problem ...
5. She can hold her breath ...
6. The first time I met her was only ...
7. I haven't watched Spielberg's latest film ...
8. I can't believe you have done all your homework ...
9. I haven't smoked marihuana ...
10. I haven't been able to go to sleep after the baby woke me up.
I've been awake ...