

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 ...