

Grammar

Present perfect (for / since)

Talking about present activities that started in the past

1 Look at the chart.

Present perfect	for / since
Bon Jovi has been successful	for more than 30 years.
The Foundation has campaigned	since 2006.

Take note!

for and since

- We use **for** to talk about a period of time up to the present.
for twelve years, **for** three months, **for** two days, etc.
- We use **since** to talk about a point of time in the past.
since 1995, **since** last year, **since** she was ten, etc.

2 Circle for or since.

- Jon Bon Jovi has been a rock star for / since 30 years.
- Charity rock concerts have been popular for / since the 1960s.
- I've campaigned against world poverty for / since 2008.
- Sam has been in a band for / since four years.
- I've known about Jon Bon Jovi for / since I was a child.
- Isabel has had her own company for / since three years.

3 Write sentences with for and since.



- Mel / live / New York / 2010
Mel has lived in New York since 2010



- She / be / a doctor / two years



- She / have / a dog / five years



- She / live / in her house / last summer



- She / do karate / six months



- She / write / a blog / March

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4 Over to you!

Think of three activities you do. Use **for** or **since**, and tell the class how long you've done these activities. Can the class guess the activities?

Student A: My clue is: for six years.

Student B: Have you been a student at this school for six years?

Student A: No, I haven't.

Student B: Have you been on the field hockey team for six years?

Student A: That's right! Your turn.

Grammar

1 Fill in the blanks with *for* or *since*.

- 1 Ellie has lived in Beijing *for* the last two years.
- 2 My brother has taken piano lessons 2005.
- 3 They have lived in Guatemala they were children.
- 4 I love my dog. I've had him six months.
- 5 We've played on the soccer team last summer.
- 6 You have been my friend more than five years.

2 Make questions with the words in parentheses. Then match them with the answers.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 How long <i>have you lived</i> in Sydney? (you / live) | a She's had it for three years. |
| 2 How long there? (Luis / work) | b I've been here since I was five years old. |
| 3 How long French? (they / study) | c It's been broken for a week. |
| 4 How long her cat? (Taseem / have) | d I've lived there since 2008. |
| 5 How long at this school? (you / be) | e He's worked there since he was sixteen. |
| 6 How long broken? (your bike / be) | f They've studied French for six months. |

3 You are talking to Hugo. Complete the conversation with the correct forms of the present perfect and *for* or *since*.



You: How long (1) *have you lived* (you / live) in New York?

Hugo: (2) *I've lived* in New York *since* 2009.



You: How long (3) (you / study) Chinese?

Hugo: (4) Chinese three years.



You: How long (5) (you / have) your cat?

Hugo: (6) six years.



You: How long (7) (your aunt / be) a teacher?

Hugo: (8) 2007.



You: (9) doctors? (your parents / be)

Hugo: (10) ten years.



You: (11) the saxophone? (you / play)

Hugo: (12) last November.