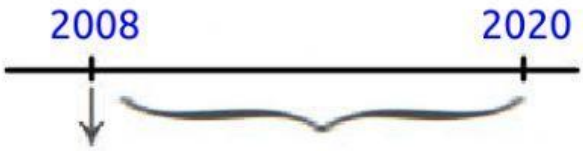
# for / since / ago – 1

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




in 2008 since 2008 / for 12 years

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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Pay attention to the verb tense:

| | |
|---|---|
| We use the past simple to refer to an event at a specific moment in the past:<br><br>I last saw him yesterday.<br>He last visited me in 2008.<br><br>We can also refer to an action in the past to specify the duration of an action or situation:<br><br>I last took a bus two months ago.<br>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:<br><br>- Specifying its duration, i.e., how long:<br><br>I haven't played bridge for two weeks.<br>We have been playing poker for three hours!<br><br>- By the time up to the present since an event happened:<br><br>I haven't seen him since I was a kid.<br>They have been playing on the computer since they finished breakfast. |

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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 …

LIVEWORKSHEETS