

3 Grammar

Present Perfect Tense versus Simple Past

Use the present perfect to talk about an action that happened in the past when the exact time isn't known or important. Use the past tense when the exact time is given.

Present Perfect

A: Have you ever **been** to France? **A:** When **were** you there?
B: Yes, I've **been** there. **B:** I **was** there **two years ago.**

Past

Present Perfect with *For* and *Since*

Use the present perfect with *for* and *since* to talk about an action that began in the past and that continues into the present.

For indicates the period of time: *for two months, for a year, for a long time.*

Since indicates when the action began: *since yesterday, since last June.*

Past	Present	Future
2008 —	I've lived here for several years. I've lived here since 2008.	— ➤

Affirmative (+)

I've	studied English	for five years. since third grade.	(I + have)
You've			(you + have)
He's			(he + has)
She's			(she + has)
We've			(we + have)
They've			(they + have)

Negative (-)

I/You/We/They	haven't	received an email	for two days.
He/She	hasn't		since Tuesday.

Question with *How Long*

How long have you played football?

I've played football

for three years.

since I was 12.

A. Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

1. Hameed has had the same TV ____ 15 years.
2. I've had my laptop ____ last June.
3. We've worked on this project ____ a month.
4. My friends haven't visited me ____ my graduation.
5. We haven't used our car ____ a long time.
6. I've been drinking tea ____ years.
7. Tariq has worn glasses ____ the age of seven.
8. ____ when have you had that beautiful watch?