

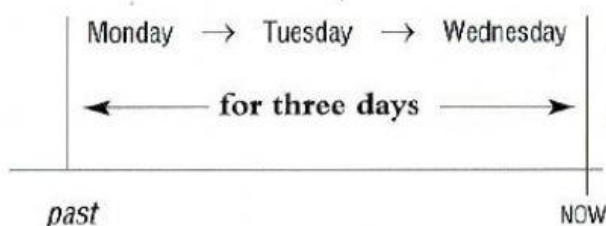
for since ago

A for and since

We use **for** and **since** to say *how long*:

- Jill is in Ireland. She **has been** there { **for three days.**
since Monday.

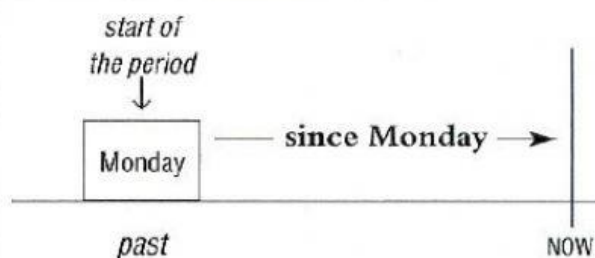
We use **for** + *a period of time* (**three days / two years etc.**):



for	
three days	ten minutes
an hour	two hours
a week	four weeks
a month	six months
five years	a long time

- Richard has been in Canada **for six months**. (not 'since six months')
- We've been waiting **for two hours**. (not 'since two hours')
- I've lived in London **for a long time**.

We use **since** + *the start of the period* (**Monday / 9 o'clock etc.**):



since	
Monday	Wednesday
9 o'clock	12.30
24 July	Christmas
January	I was ten years old
1985	we arrived

- Richard has been in Canada **since January**. (= from January to now)
- We've been waiting **since 9 o'clock**. (= from 9 o'clock to now)
- I've lived in London **since I was ten years old**.

B ago

ago = *before now*:

- Susan started her new job **three weeks ago**. (= three weeks before now)
- 'When did Tom go out?' 'Ten minutes **ago**.' (= ten minutes before now)
- I had dinner **an hour ago**.
- Life was very different **a hundred years ago**.

We use **ago** with the *past* (**started/did/had/was etc.**).

Compare **ago** and **for**:

- When did Jill arrive** in Ireland?
She **arrived** in Ireland **three days ago**.
- How long has she been** in Ireland?
She **has been** in Ireland **for three days**.

EXERCISES

19.1 Write **for** or **since**.

- 1 Jill has been in Ireland since Monday.
- 2 Jill has been in Ireland for three days.
- 3 My aunt has lived in Australia 15 years.
- 4 Margaret is in her office. She has been there 7 o'clock.
- 5 India has been an independent country 1947.
- 6 The bus is late. We've been waiting 20 minutes.
- 7 Nobody lives in those houses. They have been empty many years.
- 8 Mike has been ill a long time. He has been in hospital October.

19.2 Answer these questions. Use **ago**.

- 1 When was your last meal? Three hours ago.
- 2 When was the last time you were ill?
- 3 When did you last go to the cinema?
- 4 When was the last time you were in a car?
- 5 When was the last time you went on holiday?

19.3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets (...) + **for** or **ago**.

- 1 Jill arrived in Ireland three days ago. (three days)
- 2 Jill has been in Ireland for three days. (three days)
- 3 Linda and Frank have been married (20 years)
- 4 Linda and Frank got married (20 years)
- 5 Dan arrived (ten minutes)
- 6 We had lunch (an hour)
- 7 Silvia has been learning English (six months)
- 8 Have you known Lisa ? (a long time)
- 9 I bought these shoes (a few days)

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

- 1 Jill is in Ireland now. She arrived there three days ago. She has been there for three days.
- 2 Jack is here. He arrived here on Tuesday. He has
- 3 It's raining. It started an hour ago. It's been
- 4 I know Sue. I first met Sue two years ago. I've
- 5 I have a camera. I bought it in 1989. I've
- 6 They are married. They got married six months ago.
They've
- 7 Liz is studying medicine at university. She started three years ago.
She has
- 8 Dave plays the piano. He started when he was seven years old.
Dave has

19.5 Write sentences about yourself. Begin with the words in brackets (...).

- 1 (I've lived)
- 2 (I've been)
- 3 (I've been learning)
- 4 (I've known)
- 5 (I've had)