9 Time words and phrases

A The past, the present and the future

Look at the **diary** and read the sentences below. It's midday on Thursday, 11 April.

APRIL		
MON 1 Moscow	MON 8 Jonah & Charlotte 7.30	MON 15 London
TUES 2	TUES 9 pay phone bill	TUES 16 dinner with Scott 8.00
WED 3	WED 10 lunch with Ella 1.00 meet Logan 7.45	WED 17
THUR 4	THUR 11 TODAY cinema 7.15	THUR 18 Dr Holton 10.45
FRI 5 Bath	FRI 12 meeting 9.00–12.00 Wheeler's café 7.30	FRI 19 theatre 8.00
SAT 6	SAT 13 stay at Will's	SAT 20 Callum's birthday
SUN 7	SUN 14	SUN 21 to Mum and Dad's for lunch

I was in Moscow **last week**.
I saw Jonah and Charlotte three days **ago**.
I had lunch with Ella **yesterday**.
I went out with Logan **last night**.
I'm going to the cinema **this evening**.

I have a meeting **tomorrow morning**.
I'm staying at Will's **this weekend**.
I'm going to London for three days **next week**.
I have a doctor's **appointment next Thursday**.
I'm seeing my parents **in** ten days.

GLOSSARY

diary	a book where you write what you're going to do	**last night**	(NOT ~~*yesterday night*~~)
last week	(the past) = 1–7 April	**yesterday evening**	(NOT ~~*last evening*~~)
this week	(the present) = 8–14 April	**appointment**	a meeting at a fixed time, often with one person, for work or with a doctor/dentist, etc.
next week	(the future) = 15–21 April	**in ten days, etc.**	ten days, etc. from now
ago	before now; in the past		

1 True or false? Write *T* or *F*.

▶ I was in Moscow last week. T
1 I got back from Moscow two days ago. .....
2 I saw Jonah and Charlotte this week. .....
3 I paid the phone bill three days ago. .....
4 I met Logan yesterday. .....
5 I was in London last week. .....
6 I'm going to the cinema this afternoon. .....
7 I'm going out tomorrow evening. .....
8 I'm seeing Scott in four days. .....
9 I'm seeing the doctor in a week. .....
10 I'm going to the theatre next Friday. .....

2 **Complete the sentences.**

▶ We saw them at the cinema yesterday evening.
1 She saw Paul about three days .....
2 I won't forget Pedro's birthday – I wrote it in my .....
3 She called me at 10 o'clock last .....
4 He wants to come ..... week, not next week.
5 She can't come tomorrow morning. She's got a dentist's .....
6 I'm going to Italy ..... week.

3 **Look at the diary again. It is now Wednesday, 17 April. Write three more things about last week and three things about this week.**

▶ I had lunch with Ella a week ago.
1 ..... on Thursday evening.
2 ..... five days ago.
3 ..... last weekend.
4 ..... tomorrow morning.
5 ..... in three days.
6 ..... this weekend.

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B Time words and tenses

There are some words about time in English that we often use with particular tenses.

ever	Do you **ever** swim in the winter? (present) Have you **ever** been to Moscow? (present perfect)
while	He often phones **while** I'm eating. (present continuous) They arrived **while** I was watching TV. (past continuous)
already	I was **already** there when they arrived. (past) Do you want lunch? ~ No thanks. I've **already** eaten. (present perfect)
recently	I went to the dentist **recently**. (past) I haven't seen Tom **recently**. (present perfect)
yet	I haven't done my homework **yet**. (present perfect) Have you seen Almodovar's new film **yet**? (present perfect)
just	Where are the girls? ~ They've **just** left. (present perfect)
for	I've been in this job **for** three years. (present perfect)
since	We've lived here **since** we got married. (present perfect)

GLOSSARY

ever	at any time (any time now with the present tense, or any time before now with the present perfect)
while	during the time that (sth else is/was happening)
already	before now or before then (but we don't know exactly when). In negative sentences, we use **yet**, not **already**.
recently	not long ago (with the past simple), or in a short period of time before now (with the present perfect)
yet	used for talking about sth that hasn't happened, but you think it will
just	a very short time before now

SPOTLIGHT *for* and *since*

We use **for** with a period of time.
- ***for*** *two weeks, six months,* etc.

We use **since** with a point in time in the past:
- ***since*** *2003,* ***since*** *last year,* ***since*** *I came to England,* etc.

We often use these words with the present perfect.
- *I've been at university* ***for*** *two years.*
- *I've known Joe* ***since*** *2018.*

4 Complete the sentence with *for* or *since*.

I've known her …

▶ for a year
1 2010
2 ..... a long time
3 ..... about three months
▶ since last year.
4 ..... a couple of years
5 ..... I got married
6 ..... I was at university

5 Circle the correct answer.

▶ My girlfriend wants to go to Ibiza, but I've ***already*** / ***yet*** been there.
1 Paolo is in the classroom. I've ***just*** / ***yet*** seen him.
2 Lily arrived ***while*** / ***ever*** we were having lunch.
3 Do you ***just*** / ***ever*** go to concerts?
4 We haven't seen them ***since*** / ***for*** yesterday.
5 I haven't been to Turkey ***recently*** / ***already***.
6 I want to work abroad, but I haven't found a job ***already*** / ***yet***.
7 Have you ***ever*** / ***yet*** driven a bus?
8 I went to Spain ***just*** / ***recently***. I stayed in Seville ***since*** / ***for*** two weeks.

6 Complete the sentences.

▶ He's been in that flat for three months.
1 Have you finished your English course ..... ? ~ No, I've got another two weeks.
2 I was ..... awake when Mum came into my bedroom this morning. I was reading.
3 Where's Sophia? ~ She has ..... gone out. She was here a minute ago.
4 I haven't been to the dentist's ..... . I must make an appointment.
5 Do you ..... go to that café when you're in town?
6 I haven't had lunch ..... . I'm really hungry.
7 George tried to phone me ..... I was in the meeting.
8 We haven't seen Joe ..... he left school.

7 Translate the words in bold on this page into your own language.

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