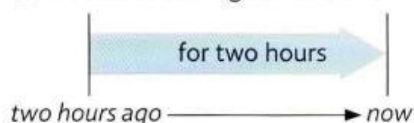


For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

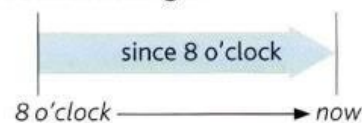
A

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.We use **for** + a period of time (**two hours, six weeks** etc.):

- ☐ I've been waiting **for two hours**.

We use **since** + the start of a period (**8 o'clock, Monday, 1999** etc.):

- ☐ I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.



for		
two hours	20 minutes	five days
a long time	six months	50 years
a week	ages	years

- ☐ Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not since six months*)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **for three days**.

since		
8 o'clock	Monday	12 May
April	2001	Christmas
lunchtime	we arrived	I got up

- ☐ Sally has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)
- ☐ I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**.

It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- ☐ They've been married (for) **ten years**. (with or without **for**)
- ☐ They **haven't had** a holiday **for** ten years. (you must use **for**)

We do *not* use **for** + **all ...** (**all day / all my life** etc.):

- ☐ I've lived here **all my life**. (*not for all my life*)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ...** etc.):

- ☐ They **haven't had** a holiday **in ten years**. (= for ten years)

B

Compare **when ... ?** (+ *past simple*) and **how long ... ?** (+ *present perfect*):A: **When** did it start raining?B: It started raining **an hour ago / at 1 o'clock**.A: **How long** has it been raining?B: It's been raining **for an hour / since 1 o'clock**.A: **When** did Joe and Carol first meet?B: They first met { **a long time ago.**
when they were at school.A: **How long** have they known each other?B: They've known each other { **for a long time.**
since they were at school.

C

We say:

It's	(= It is)	a long time	since something happened
or It's been	(= It has been)	six months (etc.)	

- ☐ **It's two years since** I last saw Joe. or **It's been two years since ...**
(= I haven't seen Joe for two years)
- ☐ **It's ages since** we went to the cinema. or **It's been ages since ...**
(= We haven't been to the cinema for ages)
- ☐ **How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? or **How long has it been since ... ?**
(= When did Mrs Hill die?)

12.1 Write for or since.

- 1 It's been raining since lunchtime.
- 2 Sarah has lived in Paris _____ 1995.
- 3 Paul has lived in Brazil _____ ten years.
- 4 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here _____ an hour.
- 5 Kevin has been looking for a job _____ he left school.
- 6 I haven't been to a party _____ ages.
- 7 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him _____ last week.
- 8 Jane is away. She's been away _____ Friday.
- 9 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained _____ a few weeks.

12.2 Write questions with how long and when.

- 1 It's raining.
(how long?) How long has it been raining?
(when?) When did it start raining?
- 2 Kate is learning Japanese.
(how long / learn?) _____
(when / start?) _____
- 3 I know Simon.
(how long / you / know?) _____
(when / you / first / meet?) _____
- 4 Rebecca and David are married.
(how long?) _____
(when?) _____

12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for _____ years.
- 3 Mark is ill. He became ill on Sunday. He has _____ Sunday.
- 4 Mark is ill. He became ill a few days ago. He has _____ a few days.
- 5 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got _____.
- 6 You have a headache. It started when you woke up.
I've _____ I woke up.
- 7 Sue has been in Italy for the last three weeks.
She went _____.
- 8 You're working in a hotel. You started six months ago.
I've _____.

12.4 Write B's sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 A: Do you often go on holiday?
B: No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.
- 2 A: Do you often see Laura?
B: No, I _____ about a month.
- 3 A: Do you often go to the cinema?
B: No, _____ a long time.
- 4 A: Do you often eat in restaurants?
B: No, _____ ages.

Now write B's answers again. This time use **It's ... since ...**.

- 5 (1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.
- 6 (2) No, its _____
- 7 (3) No, _____
- 8 (4) _____