

Activity Type

Writing, matching, listening and speaking activity

Language Focus

'For' and 'since' time words and expressions

Aim

To practice time words and expressions that go with 'for' and 'since'.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student. Also, make one copy of the 'for' and 'since' cards for every five students and cut as indicated.

Level

Elementary

Time

25 minutes

Introduction

This imaginative two-part activity is ideal for teaching students how to use 'for' and 'since' with time words and expressions.

Procedure

Give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Go through the rules for using 'for' and 'since' with time words and expressions.

Then ask the students to put the time words and expressions on their worksheet into the correct column.

When the students have finished, go through the correct answers.

Answer key

for		since	
a day	a week	last night	10:30
a few minutes	ages	July 10th	I was 21
a decade	24 hours	last summer	1973
25 years	a century	lunch-time	this morning
a moment	ten minutes	Friday night	six o'clock
a long time	30 seconds	Spring	yesterday
three months	an hour	I left school	Christmas
a couple of weeks		the Second World War	

Next, give each student one set of 'for' and 'since' cards and ask all the students to stand up.

Explain to the students that you are going to call out various time words and expressions.

After each expression or word has been called out, the students hold up the correct 'for' or 'since' card.

If a student holds up the wrong card or is too slow, they are out of the game and must sit down.

Before a student sits down, have them make a present perfect 'for' or 'since' sentence with the time word or expression they got wrong.

The last student left standing wins the game.

Before you begin the game, prepare a list of time words and expressions.

Examples: last weekend, ten seconds, Christmas Eve, I finished school, a couple of days, my birthday, a long time, five centuries, the 70s, I was a boy, August, last month, 15 years, the accident, then, we bought this house, last month, a millennium, I met you, the day before yesterday, quite a while, midnight, years, Easter, a few seconds, a while, last spring, 2015, two hours, last night, Monday morning, a lifetime

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We often use 'for' and 'since' when talking about time. 'For' is used to talk about a period of time, e.g. for three days. 'Since' is used to talk about a point in time, e.g. since nine o'clock.

Look at the time words and expressions in the box. Put them into the correct column.

last night 10:30 a day a couple of weeks July 10th ages three months
 a long time I was 21 1973 an hour last summer Friday night a decade
 ten minutes yesterday I left school this morning a moment lunch-time
 the Second World War 24 hours a few minutes six o'clock a week Spring
 a century Christmas 25 years 30 seconds

for

since

for

since

for

since

for

since

for

since

for

since