

Stage 1: Meaning & Tense Detection

Task 1: Uncover the Timeline

Look at these three questions and match them to the correct timeline or description below.

- **Question 1:** "How long have you known David?"
- **Question 2:** "How long have you been doing conservation work?"
- **Question 3:** "How long did you live in Africa?"
- **Situation A:** The action or state is completely **finished** and belongs entirely in the past.
- This matches **Question** _____
- **Situation B:** An **ongoing action** or **repeated activity** that started in the past and continues right now in the present.
- This matches **Question** _____
- **Situation C:** A **state** (using a non-action/stative verb) that started in the past and continues in the present.
- This matches **Question** _____

Task 2: Under the Hood (Grammar Form)

Look at the same three questions again. Identify the verb tense used in each formula:

1. **How long +** _____ = Continuing state (up to now)
2. **How long +** _____ = Continuing action/repeated activity
3. **How long +** _____ = Finished state or action

Choose from these tenses to fill in the blanks above: **Past Simple** | **Present Perfect Simple** | **Present Perfect Continuous**

Stage 2: Time Markers (*For* vs. *Since*)

Task 3: Spot the Illegal Rule

Read these sample answers carefully:

- *Correct:* "I lived in Africa **for** ten years."
- *Incorrect:* "I lived in Africa **since** 2002." ❌

Circle the correct options below to discover the rule:

- The word **for** can be used with **only one specific tense** / **all three tenses**.
- The word **since** **can** / **cannot** be used if your question or answer is written in the **Past Simple**.

Stage 3: Test Your Discovery

**Apply the rules you just discovered to complete these dialogue exchanges.
Circle the correct option or fill in the blank:**

1. **A:** How long _____ (you / have) that smartphone?
B: I've had it *for / since* last Christmas. (*Hint: Having a phone is a state that continues now*).
2. **A:** How long *did you study / have you been studying* English before you moved here?
B: I studied it *for / since* three years at a small academy, but I don't study there anymore.
3. **A:** How long _____ (you / wait) in line for these concert tickets?
B: We've been standing here *for / since* two hours! My feet hurt!