

UNIT 18

For, since, and ago

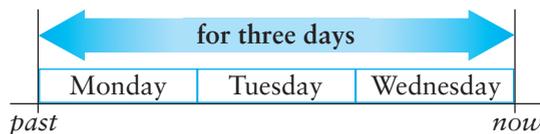
A

for and since

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

- Rachel is in Brazil. 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 Chicago **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 |
| July 4th | my birthday |
| January | I was ten years old |
| 1995 | 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 Chicago **since I was ten years old**.

B

ago

ago = before now

- Ji Yoo 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 Rachel arrive in Brazil?**
She arrived in Brazil **three days ago**.
- **How long has she been in Brazil?**
She **has been** in Brazil **for three days**.

Exercises

18.1 Write *for* or *since*.

- Rachel has been in Brazil *since* Monday.
- Rachel has been in Brazil *for* three days.
- My aunt has lived in Australia _____ 15 years.
- Jennifer is in her office. She has been there _____ 7 o'clock.
- Mexico has been an independent country _____ 1821.
- The bus is late. We've been waiting _____ 20 minutes.
- Nobody lives in those houses. They have been empty _____ many years.
- Luis has been sick _____ a long time. He has been in the hospital _____ October.

18.2 Answer these questions. Use *ago*.

- When was your last meal? *Three hours ago.*
- When was the last time you were sick? _____
- When was the last time you went to the movies? _____
- When was the last time you were in a car? _____
- When was the last time you took a vacation? _____

18.3 Complete the sentences. Use the words in parentheses () + *for* or *ago*.

- Rachel arrived in Brazil *three days ago*. (three days)
- Rachel has been in Brazil *for three days*. (three days)
- Linda and Frank have been married _____. (20 years)
- Linda and Frank got married _____. (20 years)
- We arrived _____. (ten minutes)
- It started to rain _____. (an hour)
- Silvia has been studying English _____. (six months)
- I bought these shoes _____. (a few days)

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

- Pam is in Cuba now. She arrived three days ago. *She has been there for three days.*
- Carlos is here. He arrived here on Tuesday. He has _____.
- It's raining. It started an hour ago. It's been _____.
- I know Sue. I met her two years ago. I've _____.
- I have a camera. I bought it in 1999. I've _____.
- Liz is studying medicine at the university. She started three years ago. She has _____.
- Toshi plays the piano. He started when he was seven years old. Toshi has _____.

18.5 Write sentences about yourself with *for* and *since*. Begin with the words in parentheses ().

- (I've lived) _____
- (I've been) _____
- (I've been studying) _____
- (I've known) _____
- (I've had) _____