

UNIT 18

For, since, and ago

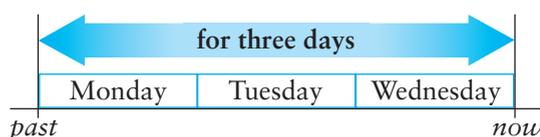
A

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) _____