

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key.He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.**Have/has lost** is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	lost
	done
	been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (**finished/decided** etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- ☐ (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- ☐ 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

C

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.**Just** = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E

You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive break fall go up grow improve ~~lose~~

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | Tom <u>has lost his key.</u> |
| 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | Lisa _____ |
| 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. | The bus fare _____ |
| 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English _____ |
| 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | Dan _____ |
| 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. | The letter _____ |
| 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12. | The _____ |

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just _____ to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. She's _____ to the shop to get a newspaper.
- Tom has _____ out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already _____ to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

- | A | B |
|--|--|
| 1 Would you like something to eat? | No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u>
(I / just / have / lunch) |
| 2 Do you know where Julia is? | Yes, _____
(I / just / see / her) |
| 3 What time is David leaving? | _____
(he / already / leave) |
| 4 What's in the newspaper today? | I don't know. _____
(I / not / read / it yet) |
| 5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us? | No, _____
(she / already / see / the film) |
| 6 Are your friends here yet? | Yes, _____
(they / just / arrive) |
| 7 What does Tim think about your plan? | _____
(we / not / tell / him yet) |

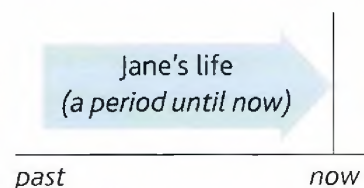
7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'
You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'
You say: I'm afraid _____ (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! _____ (not / finish)
- You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, _____ (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful.
Ask her. You say: _____ ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: _____ (not / decide)
- Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, _____ (come back)

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

- DAVE: **Have you travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? **Have you ever been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

Some more examples:

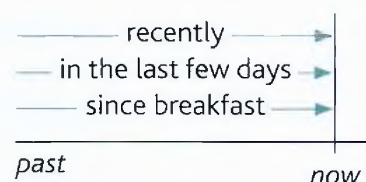
- ☐ **Have you ever eaten** caviar?
- ☐ We've never **had** a car.
- ☐ '**Have you read Hamlet?**' 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- ☐ Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times!
- ☐ What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've **ever seen**.

Been (to) = visited:

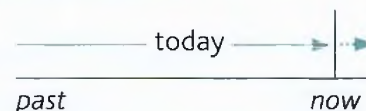
- ☐ I've never **been to** China. Have you **been** there?

B In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast** etc.):

- ☐ **Have you heard** anything from Brian **recently**?
- ☐ I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- ☐ Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**.
- ☐ I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**. (= from breakfast until now)
- ☐ It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.

C In the same way we use the present perfect with **today / this evening / this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- ☐ I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- ☐ **Have you had** a holiday **this year**?
- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. **Have you**?
- ☐ Rob **hasn't worked** very hard **this term**.

D We say: It's the (first) time something **has happened**. For example:

- ☐ Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one.
It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)
or He **has never driven** a car **before**.
- ☐ Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- ☐ Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with **ever**.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen ~~have~~ have ~~meet~~ play read see try

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 What's Mark's sister like? 2 Is everything going well? 3 Are you hungry? 4 Can you play chess? 5 Are you enjoying your holiday? 6 What's that book like? 7 Is Brussels an interesting place? 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday. 9 Do you like caviar? 10 Mike was late for work again today. 11 Who's that woman by the door? | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 I've no idea. I've never met her. 2 Yes, we haven't had any problems so far. 3 Yes. I much today. 4 Yes, but for ages. 5 Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time. 6 I don't know. it. 7 I've no idea. there. 8 Yes, it's the second time this month. 9 I don't know. it. 10 Again? He late every day this week. 11 I don't know. her before. |
|--|---|

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use **I haven't** and choose from the boxes.

used a computer travelled by bus eaten any fruit
been to the cinema read a book lost anything

- 1 I haven't used a computer today.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

today
this week
recently
for ages
since ...
this year

8.4 Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.
You ask: Have you driven a car before?
He says: No, this is the first time I've driven a car.
- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.
You ask: Have
He says: No, this is the first
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
You ask:
She says:
- 4 Maria is in Japan. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.
You ask:
She says:

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A It has been raining

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you	have	(= I've etc.)	been	doing
he/she/it	has	(= he's etc.)		waiting playing etc.

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped.

There is a connection with *now*:

- ☐ You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (= you're out of breath *now*)
- ☐ Paul is very tired. He's **been working** very hard. (= he's tired *now*)
- ☐ Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have you been doing?**
- ☐ I've **been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
- ☐ Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you everywhere.

B It has been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?**It **has been raining** for two hours.We use the present perfect continuous in this way especially with **how long**, **for ...** and **since ...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- ☐ **How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- ☐ Tim is still watching TV. He's **been watching** TV **all day**.
- ☐ Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- ☐ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

- ☐ Silvia is a very good tennis player. She's **been playing** **since she was eight**.
- ☐ Every morning they meet in the same cafe. They've **been going** there **for years**.

C Compare I am doing (see Unit 1) and I have been doing:

I
I am doing
present continuous
↓
now

- ☐ Don't disturb me now. I'm **working**.
- ☐ We need an umbrella. It's **raining**.
- ☐ Hurry up! We're **waiting**.

I have been doing
present perfect continuous
↓
now

- ☐ I've **been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. It's **been raining**.
- ☐ We've **been waiting** for an hour.

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

1 earlier



now



They 've been shopping.

2 earlier



now



She

3 earlier



now



They

4 earlier



now



He

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?) How long have you been waiting?
- You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?) What have you been doing?
- A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?) How long have you been working there?
- A friend tells you about his job – he sells mobile phones. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / sell / mobile phones?) How long have you been selling mobile phones?

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We have been waiting for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I have been learning since December.
- Jessica is working in a supermarket. She started working there on 18 January.
She has been working since 18 January.
- Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago.
They have been going for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- Hello, Tom. I've been looking (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
- Why are you looking (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- Linda is a teacher. She has been teaching (she / teach) for ten years.
- I've been thinking (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, he's been working (he / work).'
- Sarah is very tired. She has been working (she / work) very hard recently.

Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.
She **has been painting** her bedroom.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



Her bedroom was green. Now it is yellow.
She **has painted** her bedroom.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- ☐ My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** my bike.
- ☐ Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.
- ☐ It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since we last met?
- ☐ Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- ☐ My bike is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.
- ☐ Somebody **has eaten** all the chocolates. The box is empty.
- ☐ Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- ☐ **Have you ever played** tennis?

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- ☐ How long **have you been reading** that book?
- ☐ Lisa is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- ☐ They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much, how many* or *how many times*:

- ☐ How much of that book **have you read**?
- ☐ Lisa is writing emails. She's **sent** lots of emails this morning.
- ☐ They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- ☐ I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (*not I've been knowing*)
- ☐ How long **have you had** that camera? (*not have you been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous:

- ☐ I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

Exercises

10.1 Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

- Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
He has been reading for two hours. (read)
He has read 53 pages so far. (read)
- Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her trip three months ago.
She _____ for three months. (travel)
_____ six countries so far. (visit)
- Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he won the national championship again – for the fourth time.
_____ the national championship four times. (win)
_____ since he was ten. (play)
- When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.
They _____ films since they left college. (make)
_____ five films since they left college. (make)

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(wait / long?) Have _____
- You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(catch / any fish?) _____
- Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?) _____
- A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?) _____
- You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?) _____
(how long / write / books?) _____
- A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:
(how long / save?) _____
(how much money / save?) _____

10.3 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (**I have done**) or continuous (**I have been doing**).

- Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?
- Look! _____ (somebody / break) that window.
- You look tired. _____ (you / work) hard?
- '_____ (you / ever / work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'
- 'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where _____ (she / go)?'
- My brother is an actor. _____ (he / appear) in several films.
- 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. _____ (I / not / wait) long.'
- 'Is it still raining?' 'No, _____ (it / stop).'
- _____ (I / lose) my phone. _____ (you / see) it anywhere?
- _____ (I / read) the book you lent me, but _____ (I / not / finish) it yet. It's very interesting.
- _____ (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.
- This is a very old book. _____ (I / have) it since I was a child.

How long have you (been) ... ?

A

Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (*present*)

but **How long have they been** married? (*present perfect*)
(*not* How long are they married?)

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.
(*not* They are married for 20 years)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- ☐ Paul is in hospital.
- but He's **been** in hospital **since Monday**. (= He **has** been ...)
(*not* Paul is in hospital since Monday)
- ☐ Do you **know** each other well?
- but Have you **known** each other **for a long time**?
(*not* Do you know)
- ☐ She's **waiting** for somebody.
- but She's **been waiting** **all morning**.
- ☐ Do they **have** a car?
- but How long **have** they **had** their car?

present
he is
do you know
she is waiting

present perfect
he has been
have you known
she has been waiting

past

now

B

I **have known/had/lived** etc. is the *present perfect simple*.

I **have been learning / been waiting / been doing** etc. is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- ☐ I've **been learning** English **for six months**.
- ☐ It's **been raining** **since lunchtime**.
- ☐ Richard **has been doing** the same job **for 20 years**.
- ☐ 'How long **have you been driving**?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- ☐ How long **have** you **known** Jane? (*not* have you been knowing)
- ☐ I've **had** a pain in my stomach all day. (*not* I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For **have**, see Unit 17.

C

You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- ☐ Julia **has been living / has lived** here for a long time.
- ☐ How long **have** you **been working / have you worked** here?

But use the simple (**I've lived / I've done** etc.) with **always**:

- ☐ I've **always lived** in the country. (*not* always been living)

D

We say 'I **haven't done** something **since/for ...**' (*present perfect simple*):

- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **since Monday**. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- ☐ Sarah **hasn't phoned** for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

Exercises

11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him very well. OK
- 2 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time. I've known him
- 3 Sarah and Adam are married since July.
- 4 The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- 5 The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- 6 I like your house. How long are you living there?
- 7 Gary is working in a shop for the last few months.
- 8 I don't know Tom well. We've only met a few times.
- 9 I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.
- 10 That's a very old bike. How long do you have it?

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?
- 2 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / teach / English?)
- 3 You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:
(how long / know / Katherine?)
- 4 Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- 5 Tom always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- 6 You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- 7 A friend of yours is having guitar lessons. You ask him:
(how long / have / guitar lessons?)
- 8 You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(always / live / in Chicago?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Paul is in hospital, isn't he? 2 Do you see Ann very often? 3 Is Amy married? 4 Are you waiting for me? 5 You know Mel, don't you? 6 Do you still play tennis? 7 Is Joe watching TV? 8 Do you watch TV a lot? 9 Do you have a headache? 10 Adrian is never ill, is he? 11 Are you feeling ill? 12 Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she? 13 Do you go to the cinema a lot? 14 Would you like to go to New York one day? | <p>B</p> <p>Yes, he <u>has been</u> in hospital since Monday.</p> <p>No, I <u>haven't seen</u> her for three months.</p> <p>Yes, she <u>is</u> married for ten years.</p> <p>Yes, I <u>am</u> for the last half hour.</p> <p>Yes, we <u>have known</u> each other a long time.</p> <p>No, I <u>don't play</u> tennis for years.</p> <p>Yes, he <u>is watching</u> TV all evening.</p> <p>No, I <u>don't watch</u> TV for ages.</p> <p>Yes, I <u>have</u> a headache all morning.</p> <p>No, he <u>isn't</u> ill since I've known him.</p> <p>Yes, I <u>am</u> ill all day.</p> <p>Yes, she <u>lives</u> in Berlin for the last few years.</p> <p>No, I <u>don't go</u> to the cinema for ages.</p> <p>Yes, I <u>would like to go</u> to New York.
(use always / want)</p> |
|---|--|

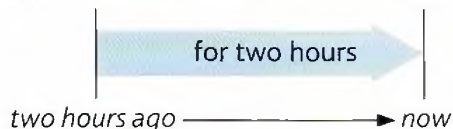
For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

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**.

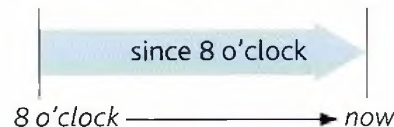


for		
two hours	20 minutes	five days
a long time	six months	50 years
a week	ages	years

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

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

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



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?)

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

- 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?)

- 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 _____.

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.

5 (1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.

6 (2) No, its

7 (3) No,

8 (4)