Present Perfect vs. Present Tense
Present Perfect vs. Past Tense
Since/For

- Discussing Duration of Activity
- Medical Symptoms and Problems
- Career Advancement
- Telling About Family Members

**Vocabulary Preview**

1. astronaut
2. cashier
3. clerk
4. computer programmer
5. doctor/physician
6. guidance counselor
7. guitarist
8. journalist
9. manager
10. musician
11. police officer
12. president
13. salesperson
14. taxi driver
15. vice president
How Long?

How long have you known* each other?

B. We’ve known each other for three years.

A. How long have you been sick?

B. I’ve been sick since last Friday.

1. How long have Tom and Janet known each other?
   two years

2. How long have Mr. and Mrs. Garcia been married?
   1995
3. How long have you had a stomachache? 
   ten o'clock this morning

4. How long has Melanie had the measles?
   five days

5. How long has Ms. Bennett been a guidance counselor?
   nineteen years

6. How long have there been satellites in space?
   1957

7. How long have you owned this car?
   three and a half years

8. How long has Bob owned his own house?
   1999

9. How long have you been interested in astronomy?
   many years

10. How long has Glen been interested in photography?
    a long time

11. How long have you been here?
    1979

12. How long has your son had blue hair?
    a week
Dr. Fernando’s waiting room is very full today. A lot of people are waiting to see him, and they’re hoping that the doctor can help them. George’s neck has been stiff for more than a week. Martha has had a bad headache since yesterday, and Lenny has felt dizzy since early this morning. Carol has had a high fever for two days, Bob’s knee has been swollen for three weeks, Bill’s arm has been black and blue since last weekend, and Tommy and Julie have had little red spots all over their bodies for the past twenty-four hours.

Dr. Fernando has been in the office since early this morning. He has already seen a lot of patients, and he will certainly see many more before the day is over. Dr. Fernando’s patients don’t know it, but he also isn’t feeling well. He has had a pain in his back since last Thursday, but he hasn’t taken any time to stay at home and rest. He has had a lot of patients this week, and he’s a very dedicated doctor.
Dr. Fernando’s patients are talking to him about their problems. Using this model, create dialogs based on the story.

**A.** So how are you feeling today, George?
**B.** Not very well, Dr. Fernando.
**A.** What seems to be the problem?
**B.** My neck is stiff.
**A.** I see. Tell me, how long has your neck been stiff?
**B.** For more than a week.

**Choose**

1. They’ve known each other since _____.
   a. 2000
   b. three years
2. I’ve been interested in astronomy for _____.
   a. last year
   b. one year
3. She has been a doctor for _____.
   a. two years ago
   b. two years
4. He has had a toothache since _____.
   a. yesterday
   b. two days
5. We’ve been here for _____.
   a. one hour
   b. one o’clock
6. There have been two robberies in our neighborhood since _____.
   a. one month
   b. last month
7. My grandparents have owned this house for _____.
   a. a long time
   b. many years ago
8. They’ve been in love since _____.
   a. last spring
   b. three months

**Choose**

1. My right arm has been very _____.
   a. dizzy
   b. stiff
2. My son has a high _____.
   a. fever
   b. pain
3. Tell me, how long has your knee been _____?
   a. nauseous
   b. swollen
4. Ted’s leg has been black and _____.
   a. blue
   b. red
5. Dr. Fernando, there are several patients in the _____.
   a. past 24 hours
   b. waiting room
6. Look! I have spots all over my _____!
   a. measles
   b. body
A. Do you know how to ski?
B. Yes. I've known how to ski since I was a little girl.

A. Are you two engaged?
B. Yes. We've been engaged since we finished college.

1. Does your sister Jennifer play the cello?
   since she was eight years old

2. Is your friend Michael a professional musician?
   since he graduated from music school
3. Do you have a personal computer?  
   *since I started high school*

4. Are you interested in modern art?  
   *since I read about Picasso*

5. Is Paul interested in Russian history?  
   *since he visited Moscow*

6. Does Timmy know how to count to ten?  
   *since he was two years old*

7. Do you like jazz?  
   *since I was a teenager*

8. Do you own your own business?  
   *since I got out of the army*

9. Do you know Mr. Wilson?  
   *since I was a little boy*

10. Do you have termites?  
    *since we bought the house*

11. Are you afraid of boats?  
    *since I saw “Titanic”*

12. Do your children know about “the birds and the bees”?*  
    *since they were nine years old*

*the facts of life
Have You Always Taught History?

A. Have you always taught history?

B. No. I’ve taught history for the past three years. Before that, I taught geography.

A. Has Victor always been a taxi driver?

B. No. He’s been a taxi driver since he immigrated to this country. Before that, he was an engineer.

1. Have you always liked classical music? the past five years

2. Has Carlos always been the store manager? last January

3. Has Kimberly always had short hair? she started her new job

4. Has your son always wanted to be an astronaut? the past five or six years
5. Has Ron always spoken with a southern accent?
   he moved to Georgia

6. Have you and your wife always had a dog?
   the last six months

7. Have you always drunk skim milk?
   I went on a diet

8. Has Carol always owned a sports car?
   she won the lottery

**How to Say It!**

**Reacting to Information**

Oh. I didn’t know that.
Oh. I didn’t realize that.
Oh. I wasn’t aware of that.

Practice the conversations in this lesson again. React to information in different ways.

**How About You?**

What is your present address? How long have you lived there?
What was your last address? How long did you live there?

Who is the leader of your country? How long has he/she been the leader?
Who was the last leader of your country? How long was he/she the leader?

Who is your English teacher now? How long has he/she been your teacher?
Who was your last English teacher? How long was he/she your teacher?
A WONDERFUL FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson are very proud of their family. Their daughter, Ruth, is a very successful engineer. She has been an engineer since she finished college. Her husband’s name is Pablo. They have been happily married for thirty-five years. Pablo is a professional guitarist. He has known how to play the guitar since he was four years old.

Ruth and Pablo have two children. Their son, David, is a computer programmer. He has been interested in computers since he was a teenager. Their daughter, Rita, is a physician. She has been a physician since she finished medical school in 1997.

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson also have a son, Herbert. Herbert is single. He has been a bachelor all his life. He’s a famous journalist. They haven’t seen him since he moved to Singapore several years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Patterson feel fortunate to have such wonderful children and grandchildren. They’re very proud of them.

READING CHECK-UP

True or False?

1. Ruth got married thirty-five years ago.
2. Ruth’s husband is a professional violinist.
3. Ruth and Pablo have two teenagers.
4. The Pattersons’ grandson is interested in computers.
5. Rita has been in medical school since 1997.
6. Herbert has never been married.
7. Herbert hasn’t seen his parents since they moved to Singapore several years ago.

LISTENING

Listen to the conversation and choose the answer that is true.

1. a. She doesn’t have a backache now.  
   b. She still has a backache.
2. a. His father is an engineer.  
   b. His father isn’t an engineer.
3. a. Her knee isn’t swollen now.  
   b. Her knee is still swollen.
4. a. He isn’t a teenager.  
   b. He’s a teenager.
5. a. She has lived in Tokyo for five years.  
   b. She lived in Tokyo for five years.
6. a. Roger lives in Cairo.  
   b. Roger has lived in Cairo.
7. a. Amy went home two days ago.  
   b. Amy hasn’t been home for two days.
8. a. He has lived in Toronto for three years.  
   b. He lived in Toronto for three years.
Louis is very successful. For the past six years, he has been the manager of the Big Value Supermarket on Grant Street. Louis has worked very hard to get where he is today. First, he was a clerk for two years. Then, he was a cashier for three years. After that, he was an assistant manager for five years. Finally, six years ago, he became the manager of the store. Everybody at the Big Value Supermarket is very proud of Louis. He started at the bottom, and he has worked his way up to the top.

Kate is very successful. For the past two years, she has been the president of the Marcy Company. Kate has worked very hard to get where she is today. She started her career at the Marcy Department Store in Dallas, Texas. First, she was a salesperson for three years. Then, she was the manager of the Women’s Clothing Department for ten years. Then, she was the store manager for eight years. After that, she moved to New York and became a vice president. Finally, two years ago, she became the president. Everybody at the Marcy Company is very proud of Kate. She started at the bottom, and she has worked her way up to the top.

**READING CHECK-UP**

**TRUE, FALSE, OR MAYBE?**

Answer True, False, or Maybe (if the answer isn’t in the story).

1. Louis started as a cashier at the Big Value Supermarket.
2. He has worked there for sixteen years.
3. All employees at the Big Value Supermarket start at the bottom.
4. Kate has been the manager of the Women’s Clothing Department in Dallas for ten years.
5. The Women’s Clothing Department was on the bottom floor of the store.
6. Kate hasn’t been a vice president for two years.

**Writing**

Write a story about your English teacher.

How long have you known him/her?
How long has he/she been an English teacher?
What did he/she do before that? How long?

Where does he/she live?
How long has he/she lived there?
Has he/she lived anywhere else? Where? How long?

Besides teaching English, what is your English teacher interested in?
How long has he/she been interested in that?
A. George!
B. Tony! I can't believe it's you! I haven't seen you in years.
A. That's right, George. It's been a long time. How have you been?
B. Fine. And how about you?
A. Everything's fine with me, too.
B. Tell me, Tony, do you still live on Main Street?
A. No. I haven't lived on Main Street for several years. I live on River Road now. And how about you? Do you still live on Central Avenue?
B. No. I haven't lived on Central Avenue since 1995. I live on Park Boulevard now.
A. Tell me, George, are you still a barber?
B. No. I haven't been a barber for several years. I'm a computer programmer now. And how about you? Are you still a painter?
A. No. I haven't been a painter for a long time. I'm a carpenter now.
B. Tell me, Tony, do you still play the saxophone?
A. No. I haven't played the saxophone for many years. And how about you? Do you still go fishing on Saturday mornings?
B. No. I haven't gone fishing on Saturday mornings since I got married.
A. Well, George, I'm afraid I have to go now. We should get together soon.
B. Good idea, Tony. It's been a long time.
Pretend that it’s ten years from now. You’re walking along the street and suddenly you meet a student who was in your English class. Try this conversation. Remember, you haven’t seen this person for ten years.

A. __________!
B. __________! I can’t believe it’s you! I haven’t seen you in years.

A. That’s right, ___________. It’s been a long time. How have you been?
B. Fine. And how about you?

A. Everything’s fine with me, too.
B. Tell me, ___________, do you still live on _________?

A. No. I haven’t lived on _________ (for/since) _________. I live on _________ now. And how about you? Do you still live on _________?
B. No. I haven’t lived on _________ (for/since) _________. I live on _________ now.

A. Tell me, ___________, are you still (a/an) _________?
B. No. I haven’t been (a/an) _________ (for/since) _________. I’m (a/an) _________ now. And how about you? Are you still (a/an) _________?

A. No. I haven’t been (a/an) _________ (for/since) _________. I’m (a/an) _________ now.
B. Tell me, ___________, do you still _________?

A. No. I haven’t _________ (for/since) _________. And how about you? Do you still _________?
B. No. I haven’t _________ (for/since) _________.

A. Well, _________, I’m afraid I have to go now. We should get together soon.
B. Good idea, __________. It’s been a long time.
**PRONUNCIATION**  Reduced have & has

Listen. Then say it.

How long have you been sick?

How long has Ms. Bennett been a teacher?

Bob has been the manager for six months.

Say it. Then listen.

How long have you known each other?

How long has Mr. Perkins had a stomachache?

Kate has been the president for the past two years.

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**GRAMMAR FOCUS**

**Since/For**

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>Since</th>
<th>For</th>
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<td>We've known each other</td>
<td>three o'clock.</td>
<td>three hours.</td>
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<td>yesterday afternoon.</td>
<td>two days.</td>
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<td>last week.</td>
<td>a week.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2000.</td>
<td>a long time.</td>
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<td>we were in high school.</td>
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</table>

**Present Perfect vs. Present Tense**

I know how to ski.
I've known how to ski since I was a little girl.

Victor was an engineer.
He's been a taxi driver since he immigrated.

Choose the correct word.

1. My wife and I (knew have known) each other (since for) 1989.
2. My daughter (is sick has been sick) (since for) several days.
3. How long (have you had do you have) a stomachache?
4. (Are you Have you been) interested in photography now?
5. (We've owned We own) our own business (since for) several years.
6. (She's had She had) a cat (since for) last year. Before that, (she's had she had) a dog.
7. Alexander (was has been) a taxi driver (since for) he came to this country. Before that, (he was he's been) an engineer.
8. I (didn't see haven't seen) you in a long time. How (are have) you been?
9. I (haven't lived didn't live) on Oak Street for many years. (I've lived I live) on Pine Street now.
The night shift

Late-night shopper at the supermarket

Employees of these "24/7" companies have seen changes in their work schedules in recent years. About twenty percent of employees don’t work on a traditional “9 to 5” daytime schedule anymore. Their companies have switched them to other shifts, such as 3:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M., or 11:00 P.M. to 7:00 A.M. In the past, many factory workers, doctors and nurses, police, firefighters, and others had these shifts, but now many office workers have also started to work during these hours.

Many local businesses have adjusted their hours to serve the employees of these companies. More and more supermarkets are open 24 hours a day. Restaurants and coffee shops close later and open earlier. And businesses such as photocopy centers, health clubs, laundromats, and even some child-care centers are always open.

Describe the work schedules of people you know. Are there any “24/7” businesses in your area? What’s your opinion about these businesses and their employees’ work schedules?
Some jobs are unique. They exist only in certain countries.

**Unique Jobs**

- A subway pusher in Japan
- A tulip farmer in Holland
- A reindeer herder in Siberia
- A safari guide in Africa
- A coffee plantation worker in Colombia
- A dog day-care worker in California

What unique jobs do you know? In what countries do these jobs exist?

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**Interview**

Mr. and Mrs. Roberto Souza have two children, ages two and four. Mr. Souza works the day shift at a manufacturing company, and Mrs. Souza works at night in an office. Their lives are certainly busy!

**Mr. Souza, can you describe your typical day?**

I get up at 5:30 A.M. I take a shower, eat breakfast, and make my lunch. Sometimes I do some laundry before I go to work. I leave the house at 6:30 A.M.

**Is anyone in your house awake when you leave?**

No. Everyone is still asleep. I work from 7:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. After work, I pick up my kids at their grandmother’s apartment. Usually we go food shopping and then we go home to make dinner. My wife has already left for work. I play with the kids, we eat dinner, and then I put the kids to bed. I’m normally asleep by 10:00 P.M.

**And Mrs. Souza, what about your day?**

The kids and I get up at 7:00. We eat breakfast, and then they play while I do some housework. Sometimes we go to the park or we visit family or friends. Other times we go shopping. I take the kids to my mother’s apartment at 2:00 P.M., and I’m at work by 3:00 P.M. I come home at 11:30 P.M. That’s my day!

**It sounds exhausting! When do you have time to see your husband?**

Sometimes he waits for me to come home, but usually he has already gone to bed. Believe it or not, we really see each other only on the weekends.

**Mr. Souza, what’s the most difficult thing about your work schedule?**

Communication. We leave each other notes and messages about bills, shopping, doctor’s appointments, and everything else.

**And tell me, Mrs. Souza, is there anything good about these work schedules?**

Yes. The children are always with a parent or a grandparent. They don’t have to go to daycare, which is expensive. We know these schedules won’t last forever. When the children are both in school, maybe we can each have a daytime job. I hope so!
FACT FILE
Vacation Time in Different Countries
Employees in different countries have different amounts of vacation time. What’s the typical amount of vacation time employees receive in different countries you know? How do people usually spend their vacation time?

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<th>Weeks per Year</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>Denmark</th>
<th>Sweden</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>USA</th>
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LISTENING
Office Voice Mail
Has Sam . . .
1. written a note to Mrs. Wilson?  Yes  No
2. called Mr. Chen?  Yes  No
3. sent an e-mail about the meeting?  Yes  No
4. spoken to the custodian?  Yes  No
5. made a list of the employees?  Yes  No
6. given the list to Ms. Baxter?  Yes  No
7. taken the package to the post office?  Yes  No

FUN with IDIOMS
My new co-worker is a real peach.
He’s a real ham at office parties.
She’s a smart cookie.
She’s the top banana in our company.
He’s a couch potato.
He wants to ask for a raise, but he’s chicken.

Do You Know These Expressions?

1. My new co-worker is a real peach. a. He’s funny.
2. She’s the top banana in our company. b. He’s afraid.
3. He’s a real ham at office parties. c. She’s intelligent.
4. He’s a couch potato. d. He’s nice.
5. She’s a smart cookie. e. He’s lazy.
6. He wants to ask for a raise, but he’s chicken. f. She’s the boss.
Dear “Perfectly Happy,”

The present perfect tense has always been difficult for learners of English. We’ll try to explain it to you with some examples.

We use the present perfect tense to talk about:
• things that happened (or didn’t happen) sometime in the past, but the exact time isn’t important. For example:
  * I have (I’ve) already seen that movie.*
  * He has (He’s) never ridden a motorcycle.
  * She hasn’t gone to the bank yet.

• things that happened many times in the past. For example:
  * I have (I’ve) driven trucks for many years.
  * We have (We’ve) eaten lunch there many times.

• things that happened in the past and are still happening in the present. For example:
  * I have (I’ve) known them for two years.
  * She has (She’s) been sick since last Thursday.
  * They have (They’ve) lived here for a year.

It’s interesting how different languages express time in different ways, and we can understand why this tense is difficult for you. In your languages, you might say:

✗ I live here since last year.
✗ I am living here since last year.
✗ I lived here since last year.

In English, these are all wrong. Sorry! The correct way to say this is:
✓ I have (I’ve) lived here since last year.

This means “I lived here before, and I still live here now.”

So that’s why we need the present perfect tense in English. Thanks for your question, and good luck!

Sincerely,

Side by Side

* If the exact time is important, we use the past tense: “I saw a movie yesterday.”
Choose the correct answer.

1. Ahmed called his doctor because he felt ____
   • engaged
   • busy
   • dizzy
   • full

2. My wife and I are very upset. Our house has ____
   • termites
   • satellites
   • measles
   • a high fever

3. Someday I want to ____ my own business.
   • know
   • own
   • count
   • wait for

4. Ben comes to work early and leaves late. He's a very dedicated ____
   • patient
   • teenager
   • store manager
   • bachelor

5. Dolores is a professional _____. She plays the cello.
   • physician
   • musician
   • engineer
   • journalist

6. I'm a very good skater. ____ how to skate for a long time.
   • I've known
   • I know
   • I knew
   • I've knew

7. Sonia doesn't feel well. ____ a headache ____ early this morning.
   • She had . . . since
   • She's had . . . for
   • She has . . . from
   • She's had . . . since

8. A. How long ____ interested in science?
B. ____ many years.
   • are you . . . For
   • you've been . . . Since
   • have you been . . . For
   • have you been . . . Since

9. A. Do you still drive a bus?
B. No. ____ a bus for years. ____ a taxi now.
   • I haven't driven . . . I drive
   • I didn't drive . . . I've driven
   • I don't drive . . . I drive
   • I've driven . . . I've driven

10. Brian ____ the manager for a year. Before that, ____ the assistant manager.
    • was been . . . he was
    • has been . . . he's been
    • is . . . he's been
    • has been . . . he was

SKILLS CHECK

Match the “can do” statement and the correct sentence.

____ 1. I can ask about the duration of an activity.
      a. How are you feeling today?

____ 2. I can tell about the duration of an illness.
      b. Are you interested in modern art?

____ 3. I can ask about a person’s health.
      c. Do you know how to ski?

____ 4. I can describe an ailment or symptom.
      d. How long have you owned this car?

____ 5. I can ask about a person’s skills.
      e. Oh. I didn’t know that.

____ 6. I can ask about a person’s interests.
      f. I’ve been a taxi driver since 2009.

____ 7. I can tell about my work experience.
      g. My neck is stiff.

____ 8. I can react to information.
      h. I’ve been sick for three days.