



Subject: English

Book: Grammar

Topic: Revision - Use of For

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Name: _____

Grade/Sec.: VIII _____

Use of “since” and “for”–

Since

Since expresses duration up to the present.

When we use **since**, we are saying that something began in the past and is unfinished:

1. I have lived in this house **since** 1997.

(= 'I moved here in 1997 and I still live here.')

2. We've been married **since** last June.

(= 'We got married last June and we're still married.')

3. I've known him since we were at school.

(= 'I knew him at school and I still know him.')

We use the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous with since:

4. I have had this car since last April.

5. Mary has been working here since 2003.

We can use the past perfect tense with since to express duration from a point in the past:

6. It was 1974, and he had been living in London since 1964.

Since vs. for

Since and **for** both express duration up to a point in the present, but we use them differently.

We use **since** + **the starting point of the activity**:

Examples:

1. We have lived in this house since we got married.
2. I've been waiting here since 9 o'clock.

We use **for** + **a time period**:

1. We have lived in this house **for** thirty years.
2. I've been waiting here **for** three hours.

Look at these examples:

| <i>for</i> a period from start to end | <i>since</i> a point from then to now |
|---|--|
| >====< | x====> |
| for 20 minutes for three days for 6 months for 4 years for 2 centuries for a long time for ever | since 9am since Monday since January since 1997 since 1500 since I left school since the beginning of time |
| all tenses | perfect tenses |

for

For can be used with all tenses. Here are a few examples:

- They study for two hours every day.
- They are studying for three hours today.
- He has lived in Bangkok for a long time.
- He has been living in Paris for three months.
- I worked at that bank for five years.
- Will the universe continue for ever?

Note: We do not use *for* with "all day", "all the time":

- I was there all day. (~~*not for all day*~~)