

## UNIT 27 Present perfect simple

Uses with *How long, for, since*

The present perfect simple is also used:

### A

- to talk about situations that started in the past and are still happening now.

*I've been in England for three years.*

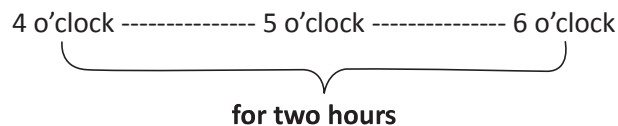
(I came three years ago and I'm still here)

*I've lived in London since May 2006*

(I moved to London in May 2006 and I still live here)

- with the preposition **for**, to specify the duration of the action.

*It's not six o'clock. They have been here for two hours*



- with the preposition **since**, to specify the moment in which the action began.

*They have been here since 4 o'clock*

| 4 o'clock -----> now  
**since 4 o'clock** ----->

### B

- to ask about the duration of a certain situation. Questions start with **How long...?**, **For how long...?** or **Since when...?**

*'How long have you been on holiday?' 'For a week.'*

*'Since when have you had this car?' 'Since last summer.'*

### C

- For** can sometimes be omitted, especially after the verbs **be** and **wait**.

*He's been away a week.*

*I've waited an hour.*

**For** is not used before **all**.

*I've been / I'll all week.*

### D

- Note the expressions **for long** / **for a long time** and **for ages**.

*I haven't played tennis for a long time, since I broke my ankle two years ago.*

*I've known them for ages. We've lived next door since we were children.*

As you can see in the above examples, **since** is also used as a conjunction. It introduces a secondary clause, which usually has a verb in the **past simple**.

*I've lived in this town since I was born.*

*We've loved each other since we first met.*

|                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Student's notes</b> _____<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |
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## EXERCISES

Present perfect simple – Uses with *How long, for, since* **UNIT 27**

NAME: student code DATE: / /

LEVEL: CEFR L TIME: —

### 27.1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence (a or b)

- 1 a ☐ I haven't seen Mr Smith from next door since days.  
b ☐ I haven't seen Mr Smith from next door for days.
- 2 a ☐ Did you live here since you were a baby?  
b ☐ Have you lived here since you were a baby?
- 3 a ☐ That cottage has been there for two hundred years.  
b ☐ That cottage has been there since two hundred years.
- 4 a ☐ They've only had electricity in that village since 1965.  
b ☐ They only have electricity in that village since 1965.
- 5 a ☐ I don't see mice in the kitchen since we got the cat!  
b ☐ I haven't seen mice in the kitchen since we got the cat!
- 6 a ☐ Has Bill owned that studio since long?  
b ☐ Has Bill owned that studio for long?

### 27.2 Choose the correct alternative.

- 1 Film stars have lived in Hollywood **for / since** it became the movie capital of America.
- 2 Humans **don't live / haven't lived** in caves for thousands of years.
- 3 Architects have supported environmentally friendly housing **for / since** the last 20 years.
- 4 We have had the option of solar heating **since / for** the 1980s.
- 5 Town planners haven't been keen on high-rise flats **for / since** more than 20 years.
- 6 Properties in this area **are / have been** expensive since they filmed *Notting Hill* here.

### 27.3 Complete the dialogue using the expressions in the box.

did you ~~have you~~ I haven't spoken you've I've known since for

**Kelly:** How long <sup>(1)</sup> ..... known Bernard?

**Colin:** I've known him <sup>(2)</sup> ..... we were children, so that means <sup>(3)</sup> ..... him <sup>(4)</sup> ..... 12 years.

**Kelly:** And when <sup>(5)</sup> ..... last see him?

**Colin:** Well, <sup>(6)</sup> ..... seen him for over a month, actually.

**Kelly:** Have you seen him since you got your new car?

**Colin:** No, I haven't. In fact, I haven't even <sup>(7)</sup> ..... to him on the phone since the weekend.

**Kelly:** I guess if <sup>(8)</sup> ..... been friends for that long, he'll understand.

### 27.4 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first one.

Use the given word without changing it.

- 1 We have lived next door to the Morgans for ten years. **BEEN**  
The Morgans ..... neighbours for ten years.
- 2 I haven't seen Stella for weeks. **SAW**  
It's weeks ..... Stella.
- 3 I met Eric ten years ago. **HAVE**  
I ..... for ten years.
- 4 They haven't decorated the living room for five years. **SINCE**  
It's five years ..... the living room.
- 5 When did you buy your own apartment? **HAVE**  
How long ..... your apartment?

Teacher's observations