

for since ago

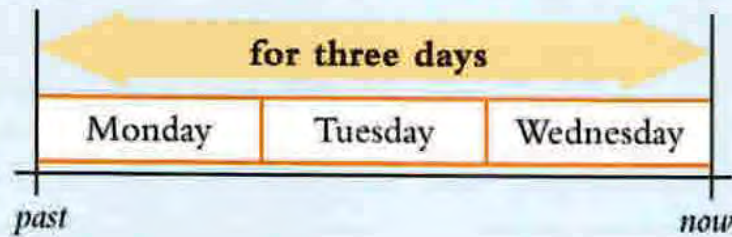
A

For and since

We use **for** and **since** to say *how long*:

- Jane **is** in Brazil. She **has been** there { **for three days.**
since Monday.

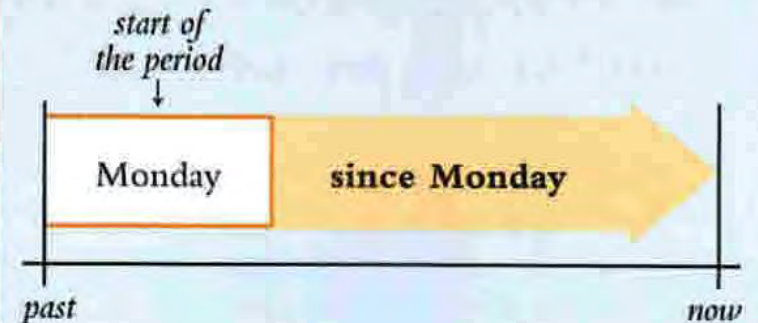
We use **for** + a period of time
(**three days** / **two years**, etc.):



for	
three days	10 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** / **9:00**, etc.):



since	
Monday	Wednesday
9:00	12:30
July 4th	my birthday
January	I was 10 years old
1995	we arrived

- Richard has been in Canada **since January**. (= from January to now)
- We've been waiting **since 9:00**. (= from 9:00 to now)
- I've lived in Chicago **since I was 10 years old**.

B

Ago

ago = before now:

- Susan started her new job **three weeks ago**. (= three weeks before now)
- "When did Tom leave?" "**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 Jane 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**.

18.1 Write *for* or *since*.

- Jane has been in Brazil since Monday.
- Jane has been in Brazil for three days.
- My aunt has lived in Australia _____ 15 years.
- Jennifer is in her office. She has been there _____ 7:00.
- 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.
- Michael has been sick _____ a long time. He has been in the hospital _____ October.

18.2 Answer these questions. Use *ago*.

- When was the last time you ate? 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 went on vacation? _____

18.3 Complete the sentences. Use *for* or *ago* with these words.

- Jane arrived in Brazil three days ago. (three days)
- Jane has been in Brazil for three days. (three days)
- Lynn and Mark have been married _____ (20 years)
- Lynn and Mark got married _____ (20 years)
- Dan arrived _____ (an hour)
- I bought these shoes _____ (a few days)
- Silvia has been studying English _____ (six months)
- Have you known Lisa _____ ? (a long time)

18.4 Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

- (Jane is in Brazil – she arrived there three days ago)
Jane has been in Brazil for three days.
- (Jack is here – he arrived on Tuesday)
Jack has _____
- (It's raining – it started an hour ago)
It's been _____
- (I know Sue – I met her in 2002)
I've _____
- (Claire and Matthew are married – they got married six months ago)
Claire and Matthew have _____
- (Liz is studying medicine at the university – she started three years ago)
Liz has _____
- (David plays the piano – he started when he was seven years old)
David has _____

18.5 Write sentences about yourself. Begin your sentences with:

I've lived . . . I've been . . . I've been studying . . . I've known . . . I've had . . .

- I've lived in this town for three years.
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____