



كلية : الاداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الاولى

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اسم المادة باللغة العربية : النحو الانكليزي

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : English Grammar in Use

اسم المحاضرة السادسة باللغة العربية: استخدام التعبير (كم المدة)

اسم المحاضرة السادسة باللغة الإنكليزية : how long have you (been) ... ?

How long have you (been) ... ?

Hazim and Roua are married. They got married exactly 15 years ago, so today is their 15th wedding anniversary.

They **have been married** for 15 years.

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

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

They **have been married** for 15 years.
(not They are married for 15 years)

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

Compare the **present** and **present perfect**:

Paul is in hospital.

but He's **been** in hospital since Monday. (= He **has been** ...)
(not Paul is in hospital since Monday)

We know each other very well.

but We've **known** each other for a long time.
(not We know)

Do they have a car?
but **How long have they had** their car?

She's waiting for somebody.
but She **hasn't been waiting** very long.

I've known / I've had / I've lived etc. is the **present perfect simple**.
I've been learning / I've been waiting 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 **since January**.

It's been raining all morning.

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 and like) are not normally used in the continuous:

How long have you known Jane? (not have you been knowing)

I've had these shoes for ages. (not I've been having)

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

Julia **has been living** in this house **for a long time**. or Julia **has lived**

...

How long have you been working here? or **How long have you worked** here?

But we use **the simple** (**have lived** etc.) with **always**:

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

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

Read the situations and write questions using the words in brackets.

1 A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:

(how long / Paul / hospital?)

2 You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine’s. You ask Jane:

(how long / you / know / Katherine?)

3 Your friend’s sister went to Australia some time ago and she’s still there. You ask your friend:

(how long / sister / in Australia?)

4 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:

(how long / you / teach / English?)

5 Tom always wears the same jacket. It’s very old. You ask him:

(how long / you / have / that jacket?)

6 You are talking to a friend about Joe, who now works at the airport. You ask your friend:

(how long / Joe / work / airport?)

7 You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:

(you / always / live / in Chicago?)