



كلية : الاداب

القسم او الفرع : اللغة الانكليزية

المرحلة: الاولى

أستاذ المادة : د. محمد يحيى عبدالله

اسم المادة باللغة العربية : النحو الانكليزي

اسم المادة باللغة الإنكليزية : English Grammar in Use

اسم المحاضرة الثامنة باللغة العربية: عبارات زمانية

اسم المحاضرة الثامنة باللغة الإنكليزية : for and since when ... ? and how

? ... long

for and since when ... ? and how long ... ?

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something **has been happening**.

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

We've been waiting **for two hours**.

for

seven hours - 35 minutes - four days - a long time - eight months - 20 years - a week - ages - years

Sura has been working here **for five months**. (not since five months)

I haven't seen Thamer **for nine days**.

We use **since + the start of a period**:

We've been waiting **since 6 o'clock**.

6 o'clock now

since 6 o'clock

since

8 o'clock - Monday - 12 May - April - 2001 - Christmas - lunchtime - we arrived - I got up

Sura has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)

I haven't seen Thami **since Sunday**.

We often leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):
They've been married **for** ten years. or They've been married ten years.

They haven't had a holiday **for ten years**. (you need for)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ...** etc.):

They **haven't had** a holiday **in ten years**. (= for ten years)

We do not use **for + all ...** (all day / all my life etc.):

I've lived here **all my life**. (not for all my life)

Compare **when ... ?** (+ **past simple**) and **how long ... ?** (+ **present perfect**):

a: When **did it start** raining?

b: It started raining an hour ago / at 1 o'clock.

a: How long **has it been raining**?

b: It's been raining for an hour / since 1 o'clock.

We say: it's (= **it is**) - or it's been (= **it has been**)

a long time - six months (etc.) - since something happened

It's two years **since I last saw Joe**. or It's been two years since ...
(= I haven't seen Joe for two years)

It's ages **since we went to the cinema**. or It's been ages since ...
(= We haven't been to the cinema for ages)

How long is it **since Mrs Hill died**? or How long has it been since ...

Exercises

Write **for** or **since**.

- 1 It's been raining **since** lunchtime.
- 2 Paul has lived in Brazil ten years.
- 3 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here an hour.
- 4 Kevin has been looking for a job he left school.
- 5 I haven't been to a party ages.
- 6 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him last week.
- 7 Jane is away on holiday. She's been away Friday.
- 8 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.

Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It **started raining** at lunchtime.
- 2 Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've **known each other for** years.
- 3 Mark is unwell. He became ill on Sunday. He has **been ill since** Sunday.
- 4 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got **married** .
- 5 You have a headache. It started when you woke up. I've **had a headache since** I woke up.
- 6 Sue is in a meeting at work. It's been going on since 9 o'clock. The meeting **started** at 9 o'clock.
- 7 You're working in a hotel. You started working there six months ago. I've **been working there** .
- 8 Kate is learning Japanese. She's been doing this for a long time. Kate **started** .