

PRESENT PERFECT: FOR & SINCE

B1 | Teens / Adults | Grammar Practice | 35-45 minutes

Learn and practise | Describe situations that started in the past and continue now.

1. READ: A familiar neighbourhood

Read the conversation. Notice the bold grammar and how the speakers use it.

Dan: This bakery looks good. **Have you lived** around here long?
Aisha: Yes, I've lived here **for** six years. That shop's my favourite.
Dan: I moved in last month. I'm still finding my way around.
Aisha: The owners **have had** it **since** 2018. Try their lemon cake.
Dan: Good tip. **How long have you known** them?
Aisha: **Since** I moved here. They even remember my usual order.

2. GRAMMAR: Duration and starting points

Use the present perfect for an unfinished situation: for + duration; since + starting point.

Use / form	Pattern	Example
Duration	for + length of time	I've lived here for six years.
Starting point	since + point in time	I've known them since 2020.
Question	How long + have/has...?	How long have you lived here?

For: two weeks, a long time. **Since:** Monday, 2022, I was a child.

Use **have/has + past participle**: have lived, has known, have had.

For can also describe a finished period: I lived there for a year, then moved.

A. CHOOSE

Circle the correct option in each sentence.

1. I've known her for / since ten years.
2. He's worked here for / since 2021.
3. We have / has been neighbours for years.
4. How long do / have you had that bike?
5. She's lived here since / for she was ten.
6. I haven't seen him for / since Friday.
7. They've been married for / since a year.
8. I lived / have lived there in 2019, then moved.

Read each answer aloud. Explain which meaning or time clue helped you.

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Use it | Complete a context, write sentences and speak with a partner.

B. COMPLETE: Getting to know the neighbours

Complete each sentence with the correct form of the words in brackets.

1. We _____ (live) in this flat since January.
2. I've known our neighbour _____ (for / since) three months.
3. She _____ (have) her dog since it was a puppy.
4. My brother has worked nearby _____ (for / since) 2022.
5. How long _____ (you / know) the shop owners?
6. I _____ (not / see) them since last weekend.

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1-2: Rewrite using the words in brackets.

Example: I know Jo. We met in 2020. (since) **I've known Jo since 2020.**

1. I still live here. I moved in in 2023. (since)
2. I still own it. I bought it two years ago. (for)

3-4: Make questions with How long. Example: She has had it for a year. **How long has she had it?**

3. You have known Jo for five years.
4. Ben has worked here since June.

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU

Write three continuing situations in your life. Use for at least once and since at least once.

Example: **I've lived in my town for four years. I've had this phone since January.**

E. SPEAK WITH A PARTNER

Ask your partner about their home, friends or possessions.

Use **How long have you...?** Then ask a past-simple follow-up: **When did you...?**

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Answer key | Keep this page separate during student practice.

1. READ: A familiar neighbourhood

Sample target language from the conversation:

Dan: This bakery looks good. **Have you lived** around here long?

Aisha: Yes, I've lived here **for** six years. That shop's my favourite.

Aisha: The owners **have had** it **since** 2018. Try their lemon cake.

Dan: Good tip. **How long have you known** them?

Aisha: **Since** I moved here. They even remember my usual order.

A. CHOOSE

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. for | 2. since |
| 3. have | 4. have |
| 5. since | 6. since |
| 7. for | 8. lived |

B. COMPLETE: Getting to know the neighbours

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. have lived / have been living | 2. for |
| 3. has had | 4. since |
| 5. have you known | 6. haven't seen / have not seen |

C. CHANGE THE SENTENCES

1. I've lived here since 2023. / I've been living here since 2023.
2. I've had it for two years.
3. How long have you known Jo?
4. How long has Ben worked here? / How long has Ben been working here?

D. WRITE ABOUT YOU / E. SPEAK

Personal answers will vary. Check the target grammar.

Sample: I've known my best friend for eight years. I've had my bike since 2022. I've lived here for a year.

Teacher note: Check that situations with the present perfect still continue. Accept full forms and contractions.