

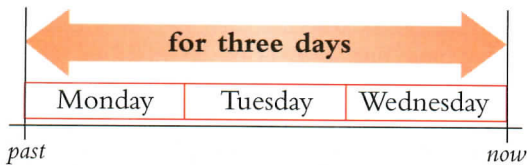
# for since ago

## A for and since

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

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

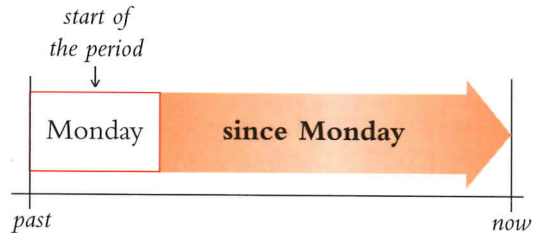
We use **for** + a period of time  
 (three days / two years etc.):



for	
three days	ten 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 London **for a long time.**

We use **since** + the start of the period  
 (Monday / 9 o'clock etc.):



since	
Monday	Wednesday
9 o'clock	12.30
24 July	Christmas
January	I was ten years old
1985	we arrived

- Richard has been in Canada **since January.** (= from January to now)
- We've been waiting **since 9 o'clock.** (= from 9 o'clock to now)
- I've lived in London **since I was ten years old.**

## B ago

**ago** = before now:

- Susan started her new job **three weeks ago.** (= three weeks before now)
- 'When did Tom go out?' '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 Ireland?  
She **arrived** in Ireland **three days ago.**
- How long has** she **been** in Ireland?  
She **has been** in Ireland **for three days.**

## 1 Write for or since.

- Jane has been in Ireland since Monday.
- Jane has been in Ireland for three days.
- My aunt has lived in Australia ..... 15 years.
- Jennifer is in her office. She has been there ..... 7 o'clock.
- India has been an independent country ..... 1947.
- The bus is late. We've been waiting ..... 20 minutes.
- Nobody lives in those houses. They have been empty ..... many years.
- Michael has been ill ..... a long time. He has been in hospital ..... October.

## 2 Answer these questions. Use ago.

- When was your last meal? Three hours ago.
- When was the last time you were ill? .....
- When did you last go to the cinema? .....
- When was the last time you were in a car? .....
- When was the last time you went on holiday? .....

## 3 Complete the sentences. Use for or ago with these words.

- Jane arrived in Ireland three days ago. (three days)
- Jane has been in Ireland 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 learning English ..... (six months)
- Have you known Lisa ..... ? (a long time)

## 4 Complete the sentences with for or since.

- (Jane is in Ireland – she arrived there three days ago)  
Jane has been in Ireland 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 first 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 university – she started three years ago)  
Liz has .....
- (David plays the piano – he started when he was seven years old)  
David has .....

## 5 Write sentences about yourself. Begin your sentences with:

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

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