

# Answer Key

FOR and SINCE  
WHEN...? and HOW LONG...?

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Practice Set 1

December 29, 2025

## 1 Exercise 1: Choose FOR or SINCE

1. I've been waiting **for** over an hour.
2. She has lived in London **since** 2015.
3. They haven't seen each other **since** last Christmas.
4. We've known each other **for** a very long time.
5. He has been working here **since** he graduated from university.
6. I haven't eaten anything **since** breakfast this morning.
7. She's been studying English **for** three years.
8. They have been married **since** 1998.
9. I haven't spoken to him **since** last Monday.
10. We've had this car **for** six months.
11. He hasn't visited his parents **since** Easter.
12. I've been interested in photography **since** I was a child.
13. They've been playing tennis **for** two hours.
14. She hasn't called me **since** her birthday.
15. We've lived in this house **for** ages.

### Rule Reminder:

- Use **FOR** with a period of time (for 3 years, for 2 hours, for ages)
- Use **SINCE** with a point in time (since 2020, since Monday, since I was a child)

## 2 Exercise 2: Complete the Sentences

1. I haven't seen Sarah for two weeks.
2. They have lived / been living in this apartment since 2020.
3. How long have you known each other?
4. She has been a teacher for ten years.
5. I haven't eaten meat since I was 18.
6. We have been waiting for the bus for 30 minutes.
7. He hasn't played football since his accident.
8. How long has she worked / been working in that company?
9. They have been friends since they were children.
10. I have had this laptop since last year.

**Note:** For verbs like *live*, *work*, and *study*, both Present Perfect Simple (have lived) and Present Perfect Continuous (have been living) are correct with FOR/SINCE. The continuous form emphasizes the duration more.

## 3 Exercise 3: WHEN...? or HOW LONG...?

1. **When** did you start learning English?
2. **How long** have you been learning English?
3. **When** did they get married?
4. **How long** have they been married?
5. **When** did she arrive in Brazil?
6. **How long** has she been in Brazil?
7. **When** did you last see Tom?
8. **How long** is it since you last saw Tom?
9. **When** did the meeting begin?
10. **How long** has the meeting been going on?
11. **When** did he move to this city?
12. **How long** has he lived in this city?

**Rule Reminder:**

- Use **WHEN...?** to ask about a specific time in the past (past simple)
- Use **HOW LONG...?** to ask about a period of time (present perfect)

## 4 Exercise 4: Write Questions

1. **When did you start your job?**  
I started my job three years ago.
2. **How long have you been working here?**  
I've been working here for three years.
3. **When did she move to Paris?**  
She moved to Paris in 2019.
4. **How long has she been living in Paris? / How long has she lived in Paris?**  
She has been living / lived in Paris since 2019.
5. **When did they buy their house?**  
They bought their house last summer.
6. **How long have they had their house?**  
They have had their house for about six months.
7. **When did you last see him?**  
I last saw him two weeks ago.
8. **How long is it since you (last) saw him? / How long haven't you seen him?**  
I haven't seen him for two weeks.
9. **When did the concert start?**  
The concert started at 8 PM.
10. **How long has the concert been going on?**  
The concert has been going on for two hours.

## 5 Exercise 5: Correct the Mistakes

1. ~~I've been living here since three years.~~  
*Correction:* I've been living here for three years.  
*Explanation:* "Three years" is a period of time, so use "for".
2. ~~She has worked in that office for 2018.~~  
*Correction:* She has worked in that office since 2018.  
*Explanation:* "2018" is a point in time, so use "since".
3. ~~How long did you live in Japan? (He still lives there)~~  
*Correction:* How long have you lived / been living in Japan?  
*Explanation:* Use present perfect because he still lives there. Both simple and continuous forms are correct.

4. ~~When have you been studying English?~~

**Correction:** **How long have you been studying English?**

**Explanation:** Use “How long” for duration, “When” for specific time.

5. ~~I haven't seen her since two weeks.~~

**Correction:** **I haven't seen her for two weeks.**

**Explanation:** “Two weeks” is a period of time, so use “for”.

6. ~~They are married since 2010.~~

**Correction:** **They have been married since 2010.**

**Explanation:** Use present perfect with “since”, not simple present.

7. ~~How long did she start working here?~~

**Correction:** **When did she start working here?**

**Explanation:** Use “When” to ask about the starting point, not “How long”.

8. ~~I know him since we were at school together.~~

**Correction:** **I have known him since we were at school together.**

**Explanation:** Use present perfect with “since”, not simple present.

9. ~~When did you have that car? (You still have it)~~

**Correction:** **How long have you had that car?**

**Explanation:** Use present perfect and “How long” because you still have it.

10. ~~He lives in London for five years.~~

**Correction:** **He has lived / been living in London for five years.**

**Explanation:** Use present perfect with “for” + period of time. Both simple and continuous forms are correct.

## 6 Exercise 6: Mixed Practice

### Conversation 1

A: How long **have you lived / been living** in this neighborhood?

B: I **have lived / been living** here **for** about five years.

A: Do you like it here?

B: Yes, I do. I **have been** very happy here **since** I moved in.

### Conversation 2

A: **Have you known** Sarah long?

B: Yes, we **have been** friends **since** we were children.

A: That's nice. When **did you meet** her?

B: We **met** in elementary school in 2005.

### Conversation 3

A: How long **has John worked / been working** at the hospital?

B: He **has worked / been working** there **for** about ten years.

A: When **did he start**?

B: I think he **started** in 2015.

### Conversation 4

A: I **haven't seen** Mark **for** ages. When **did you last see** him?

B: I **saw** him last week at the gym.

A: How is he?

B: He's great! He **has had** a new job **since** last month.

## 7 Exercise 7: Translation Practice

1. Eu moro aqui há três anos.  
**I have lived / been living here for three years.**
2. Ela não me liga desde o mês passado.  
**She hasn't called me since last month.**
3. Há quanto tempo você estuda inglês?  
**How long have you been studying English?**
4. Eles estão casados desde 2018.  
**They have been married since 2018.**
5. Quando você começou a trabalhar aqui?  
**When did you start working here?**
6. Eu não como carne há anos.  
**I haven't eaten meat for years.**
7. Ele está esperando há mais de uma hora.  
**He has been waiting for more than an hour / for over an hour.**
8. Há quanto tempo você a conhece?  
**How long have you known her?**

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## Key Grammar Points Summary

### FOR vs SINCE

- **FOR** + period of time (for 3 hours, for 2 weeks, for ages, for a long time)
- **SINCE** + point in time (since Monday, since 2020, since last year, since I was young)

### WHEN...? vs HOW LONG...?

- **WHEN...?** asks about a specific time → use Past Simple  
*When did you start? / When did it happen?*
- **HOW LONG...?** asks about duration → use Present Perfect  
*How long have you been here? / How long has it been?*

## Verb Tenses

- **Present Perfect** (have/has + past participle) is used with FOR and SINCE when the action continues to the present or has a connection to the present
- **Past Simple** is used with WHEN to talk about a finished time in the past

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*Great job completing these exercises!  
Keep practicing to master these grammar points.*