

## **Lectuer**

- **For / Since**
- **Article**
- **Directions**
- **Synonyms and Antonyms**
- **The comparative and the superlative**

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## **For / Since**

For, Since, and are similar, but they are not the same. Sometimes it is confusing and difficult to decide which one is the correct one to use. Here are some hints to help you determine whether you should use “for,” “since,” or “ago.”

### **For and Since**

Both of these are used to indicate a time span. In other words, if you are answering the question “How long ~?”, you want to use “for” or “since.”

For

“For” is used when you are using a specific period of time: one week, three hours, five years, etc.

Examples:

I have been working on my homework for two hours.

Father has been sick for a week.

Tom has been attending college for three years.

She’s been waiting for the bus for a long time.

### **Since**

“Since” is used when you indicate the beginning of a specified period of time. The period of time continues until the present.

Examples:

I have been working on my homework since 1 o’clock.

Father has been sick since Sunday.

Tom has been attending college since 2005.

She’s been waiting for the bus since this morning.

### **For + a period of time**

for six years, for a week, for a month, for hours, for two hours

I have worked here for five years.

### **Since + a point in time**

since this morning, since last week, since yesterday

since I was a child, since Wednesday, since 2 o'clock

I have worked here since 1990.

## **FOR**

FOR is used with a period of time.

This is often a number plus a time word.

FOR is used when we measure the DURATION of something or how long it lasts.

It has a start point and an end point and can be used in different tenses.

Here are some example sentences:

I studied English in Ireland for two years.

(This talks about a duration of two years and is in the past tense)

I will be there for around two months.

(This is in the future tense)

We have been married for 16 years.

(This is in the present perfect tense)

## **SINCE**

SINCE is used with a starting point or a time or date.

It refers to something that started in the past and continues until now.

SINCE is mostly used with the present perfect and perfect progressive tense.

Here are some example sentences:

He hasn't eaten since 7 o'clock.

(My period of not eating started at 7 and continues until right now)

I have been working here since June.

We have been married since 2002.

(We got married in 2002 and we continue to be married now 16 years later)

Example sentences using FOR

For ten minutes

For eight hours

For five days

For six months

For three years

For two centuries

Notice how everything after FOR refers to a duration of time.

However, the time period does not need to be exact. For example:

I have been a teacher for years.

(I don't specify the exact number though it refers to a duration of years)

We could also say For a long time (which is less specific) or more informally, for ages.

Another inexact duration is:

For a while which normally means for a short period of time, not a long period.

Example sentences using SINCE

Now let's look at some examples using SINCE:

Since 8 o'clock

Since Monday

Since February


Since 1982

Since I left school

Since the end of last century

**ENGLISH  
GRAMMAR**

# FOR - SINCE




I have been living in Spain **since** 2012.

**since** 2012

**SINCE** + point in time (in the past)  
**SINCE** + starting point  
 (and continues until now) →

**for** 6 years

**FOR** + duration of time → **NOW**



I have been living in Spain **for** 6 years.

**FOR** + period of time  
+ number + time word

When we measure the duration of something or how long it lasts.  
 It has a start point and an end point and can be used in different tenses.

- I studied English in Ireland **for** 2 years.
- I will be there **for** around two months.
- We have been married **for** 16 years.

**SINCE** + starting point  
+ a time / a date

When something started in the past and continues until now.  
**Since** is mostly used in the present perfect and perfect progressive tense.

- He hasn't eaten **since** 7 o'clock.
- I have been working here **since** June.
- We have been married **since** 2002.

**FOR**

**for** ten minutes  
**for** eight hours  
**for** five days  
**for** six months  
**for** three years  
**for** two centuries

**SINCE**

**since** 8 o'clock  
**since** Monday  
**since** February  
**since** 1982  
**since** I left school  
**since** the end of last century

## - Article

### What is an Article in English?

Articles are small but mighty words in the English language. Sometimes called article adjectives, these words include "the," "a," and "an." These three words serve an important function by modifying nouns in a sentence.

### Articles as a Part of Speech

Some scholars consider articles to be a type of adjective or in the same category as adjectives. Adjectives are words that describe a noun. Articles are similar to adjectives in that they modify nouns. However, unlike adjectives, they do not actually describe a noun; they just identify it. So, some English language experts give a different meaning to the articles as their own part of

speech, separate from adjectives. For the purposes of this lesson, articles will be considered their own part of speech.

## **Types of Articles in English and Their Usage**

The English language contains three articles:

**The**

**A**

**An**

However, these three little words are not interchangeable. They are crucial when referring to nouns in the English language, and each one is used in specific ways and in particular contexts.

The definite article, the, is used to refer to a specific noun.

The indefinite articles, "a" and "an", are used when referring to a general noun.

## **The Definite Article**

**"The"** is the only definite article in English. When the article "the" is used to precede a word beginning with a consonant, it's pronounced "the" with a short "e" (also called a schwa) sound. The schwa sound is represented by an upside-down e symbol, usually within forward slashes.

Some proper nouns always take definite articles. The definite article "the" should be used when referring to a proper noun, a person or an organization that there is only one of. For example:

The President of the United States

The Olympic Games

The Eiffel Tower

The Roman Colosseum

The definite article also is used to refer to geographical terms such as a river, ocean, bridge, region, or building. For example:

The Brooklyn Bridge

The St. Louis Arch

The Arctic Ocean

Some plural nouns always take the definite article, such as mountain ranges, island chains, or groups of lakes:

The Rocky Mountains

The Hawaiian Islands

The Great Lakes

## **The Indefinite Articles**

**"A" and "an"** are indefinite articles. This means that they are non-specific and may refer to any member of a group. Indefinite articles are used in a sentence when the writer or speaker does not need to refer to a specific, particular noun. In general, the article "a" is used to precede a noun that begins with a consonant, such as "a cat" or "a lamp." The article "an" is used to precede a noun that begins with a vowel, such as "an igloo," "an atlas," or "an octopus."

There are some exceptions to this rule. Some words that begin with consonants do take the article "an," as in these examples:

"In an hour, we will go home."

"It has been an honor to meet you."

"She is an honest person."

In addition, some words that begin with vowels take the article "a" instead of the article "an." Here are some examples:

"Romania is a European country."

## **-Directions**

Asking the Way and Giving Directions Some Vocabulary and expressions for asking for the Way and Giving Directions In this lecture you will learn how to ask for the way and how to give directions for someone. To do this you need to learn a number of vocabularies that are common in this regard. The following list includes some of these vocabulary: -

### **1- Basic Directions**

As you may know, there are four basic directions on a compass or map:

North: On a traditional map orientation, North is up.

South: On a traditional map orientation, South is down.

East: On a traditional map orientation, East is to the right.

West: On a traditional map orientation, West is to the left.

Note that these basic directions can be used as nouns, adverbs, or adjectives. As a noun, the directions are preceded by an article, as in “she visited the north.” As an adverb, the directions are used to describe the direction in which something happened (or will happen), as in “the plane flew east.” As an adjective, the directions are used to describe a place in terms of its direction, as in “South America.” I’ll go more into directions as adjectives a little later.

## **2- Combinations**

There are also terms for the directions between the four compass directions in English that you should be aware of:

Northwest: This refers to the direction between North and West.

Northeast: This refers to the direction between North and East.

Southwest: This refers to the direction between South and West.

Southeast: This refers to the direction between South and East.

## **3- Basic Opposites**

When learning about directions in the English language, there are some common words you’ll often hear and use when looking around for different places. Here, I’ve paired opposites and their definitions so you can grasp the meaning of each. These are useful for giving street directions in English, in particular.

### **1. Front & Back**

“Front” refers to being towards the face of something; “back” is the opposite, or being towards the opposite side of that thing. Here are some basic examples of how you may hear these words used in directions:

The bookstore is to the front of the park.



The police station is to the back of the park.

## **2. Left & Right**

Left and Right Arrows

“Left” refers to the left-hand side, while “right” refers to the right-hand side.

You’ll find the hotel on the left.

Turn right at the stop sign.

## **3. Far & Close**

“Far” means that something is a long distance away from where you are now. “Close” means that something is nearby.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art is pretty far from here.

But Mount Rainier is close.

## **4. In front of & Behind**

If something is “in front of” something, it means that it’s to its face. If something is “behind” something, it’s to its back.

The library is in front of the grocery store.

The grocery store is behind the library.

## **5. Up & Down**

“Up” can either refer to the direction of the sky, or to an increase in elevation. “Down” can either refer to the direction of the ground, or to a decrease in elevation.

I like looking up at the sky. [Direction of the sky]

Take the elevator up to the third floor. [Increase in elevation]

Don’t look down! [Direction of the ground]

The ball slid down the ramp. [Decrease in elevation]

## **6. Over & Under**

“Over” refers to crossing on top of something, and “under” refers to crossing beneath something.

Cross over the John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge.

Pass under the bridge and then turn left.

## **7. Across from & Next to**

If something is “across from” something, it means that it’s directly facing it from a distance (usually with something in-between them, like a road or a lake). If something is “next to” something, it’s beside it.

Barbara’s house is across from Sara’s.

Jill sat next to Bill in class.

## **4- With References**

Here are some common phrase patterns you’ll hear when being given directions. Many of these phrases contain words from the list above. If you want even more examples, you can check out our relevant vocabulary list.

### **1. Next to \_\_\_\_**

If something is “next to” something else, it’s adjacent to it (directly beside it).

The hair salon is next to the game shop.

You’ll find the museum next to the park.

### **2. \_\_\_\_ away from**

This phrase refers to something’s distance from another position, either in terms of measurable distance or time.

The Grand Canyon is about one-hundred and thirty-five miles away from the Horseshoe Bend.

The pizzeria is about five minutes away from the apartment.

### **3. Across the street from \_\_\_\_**

When someone uses this phrase, it means that the location you’re looking for is separated by a street from something else.

Across the street from the apartments, you’ll find the ice cream shop.

The ranch is across the street from the high school.

#### **4. By the intersection**

An “intersection” is a place where the roads join, usually from four different directions, and traffic from each road must wait to make a turn or continue forward. This phrase indicates that the location you’re looking for is near an intersection.

The church is by the intersection.

The farmer’s market is located by the intersection.

#### **5. Around the corner**

“Around the corner” refers to turning left or right around the corner.

Drive around the corner, and you’ll find the music shop.

The Gettysburg National Military Park is just around the corner.

#### **6. Up/down the road**

Oftentimes, people will tell you to go up or down the road. Going “up” the road usually means going in the direction that it’s most elevated (e.g, slightly uphill), and going “down” the road usually means going in the opposite direction.

People often use hand gestures to show you which way you should go, especially when you’re not sure.

The next gas station is just up the road.

Go back down the road a few miles to find the rest stop.

#### **7. Near the \_\_\_\_**

This phrase means that the place you’re looking for isn’t far from the place mentioned.

The Bronx Museum of the Arts is near the Yankee Stadium.

St. Patrick’s Cathedral is near the Rockefeller Center in New York.

#### **8. To the right/left of \_\_\_\_**

This is a common phrase to use with landmarks (which I’ll discuss more below). It means that you should turn right or left at a specific place or within proximity of a certain object. It can also be used to show you where to look, as in the examples below.

There's a sign to the right of the road.

If you look to the left of the mountain, you can see an airplane.

### **9. Close to the \_\_\_\_**

This phrase is practically the same in meaning as “near the \_\_\_\_” and is used exactly the same way.

The fire station is close to the main road.

Stay close to the freeway exits.

### **10. In front of/Behind the \_\_\_\_**

To be “in front of” something means to be at its face. To be “behind” something is to be at its back. This phrase is often used to let you know where something is in relation to something else.

You pay for your tickets in front of the arena.

The supermarket is behind the cafe.

## **- Synonyms and Antonyms**

### **Synonyms**

Synonyms are words that have the same, or almost the same, meaning as another word. You can say an “easy task” or a “simple task” because easy and simple are synonyms. You can say Hong Kong is a “large city” or a “metropolis” because city and metropolis are synonyms.

However, it is important to remember that not all pairs of words in the English language are so easily interchangeable. The slight but important differences in meaning between synonyms can make a big difference in your writing. For example, the words boring and insipid may have similar meanings, but the subtle differences between the two will affect the message your writing conveys. The word insipid evokes a scholarly and perhaps more pretentious message than boring.

The English language is full of pairs of words that have subtle distinctions between them. All writers, professionals and beginners alike, face the challenge of choosing the most appropriate synonym to best convey their ideas. When you pay particular attention to synonyms in your writing, it comes across to your reader. The sentences become much more clear and rich in meaning.

## **Antonyms**

Antonyms are words that have the opposite meaning of a given word. The study of antonyms will not only help you choose the most appropriate word as you write; it will also sharpen your overall sense of language. Table 4.3 "Common Antonyms" lists common words and their antonyms.

## **The comparative and the superlative**

### **Comparative adjectives**

Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two objects they modify (larger, smaller, faster, higher). They are used in sentences where two nouns are compared, in this pattern:

Noun (subject) + verb + comparative adjective + than + noun (object).

The second item of comparison can be omitted if it is clear from the context (final example below).

### **Examples**

- My house is larger than hers.
- This box is smaller than the one I lost.
- Your dog runs faster than Jim's dog.
- The rock flew higher than the roof.
- Jim and Jack are both my friends, but I like Jack better. ("than Jim" is understood)

### **Superlative adjectives**

Superlative adjectives are used to describe an object which is at the upper or lower limit of a quality (the tallest, the smallest, the fastest, the highest). They are used in sentences where a subject is compared to a group of objects.

Noun (subject) + verb + the + superlative adjective + noun (object).

The group that is being compared with can be omitted if it is clear from the

context (final example below).

### Examples

- My house is the largest one in our neighborhood.
- This is the smallest box I've ever seen.
- Your dog ran the fastest of any dog in the race.
- We all threw our rocks at the same time. My rock flew the highest. ("of all the rocks" is understood)

### Forming regular comparatives and superlatives

Forming comparatives and superlatives is easy. The form depends on the number of syllables in the original adjective.

#### One syllable adjectives

Add -er for the comparative and -est for the superlative. If the adjective has a consonant + single vowel + consonant spelling, the final consonant must be doubled before adding the ending.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall	taller	tallest
fat	fatter	fattest
big	bigger	biggest

#### Two syllables

Adjectives with two syllables can form the comparative either by adding -er or by preceding the adjective with more. These adjectives form the superlative either by adding -est or by preceding the adjective with most. In many cases, both forms are used, although one usage will be more common than the other. If you are not sure whether a two-syllable adjective can take a comparative or superlative ending, play it safe and use more and most instead. For adjectives ending in y, change the y to an i before adding the ending.

### **Adjective Comparative Superlative**

Happy	happier	happiest
simple	simpler	simplest
busy	busier	busiest
tilted	more tilted	most tilted
tangled	more tangled	most tangled

### **Three or more syllables**

Adjectives with three or more syllables form the comparative by putting more in front of the adjective, and the superlative by putting most in front.

### **Adjective Comparative Superlative**

Important	more important	most important
Expensive	more expensive	most expensive

### **Irregular comparatives and superlatives**

These very common adjectives have completely irregular comparative and superlative forms.

### **Adjective Comparative Superlative**

Good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
little	less	least
much	more	most
far	farther	farthest

### **Examples**

- You play tennis better than I do.

- This is the least expensive sweater in the store.
- This sweater is less expensive than that one.
- I ran pretty far yesterday, but I ran even farther today