

## Grammar and practice

- A. Present perfect simple con "for" e "since"  
 B. It is ... since ...

- C. Present perfect continuous  
 D. Present perfect simple / Present perfect continuous

## ★ A PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE con "for" e "since"

Il **present perfect simple**, oltre ai casi presentati nel File 23, si usa anche:

- per esprimere la **durata** di un'azione/situazione iniziata nel passato e che continua nel presente (in questo caso corrisponde al **presente indicativo dell'italiano** + da)
  - con **for ...** e **since ...** (da ...)
  - soprattutto con i **verbi di stato** come: *be, have, own, belong, think, know, see, hear, ...*
 (vedi a **PAG. 96 97**)

- con i **verbi di azione** soprattutto in **frasi negative**. Con i verbi di azione, in frasi affermative, si preferisce usare il **present perfect continuous** - (vedi a **PAG. 200**)

*We've been here for two days / since Monday.*

Siamo qui da due giorni / da lunedì.

*I've known him for ten months / since February.*

Lo conosco da dieci mesi / da febbraio.

*I haven't written to Peter for a long time.*

Non scrivo a Peter da molto tempo.

**"FOR" e "SINCE"**

In questo tipo di costruzione entrambi rendono l'italiano **da**, ma **confronta** il diverso uso:

**FOR + periodo di durata dell'azione/situazione**

*I've had this car for two months.*

Ho questa macchina da due mesi.

**SINCE + momento di inizio dell'azione/situazione**

*I've had this car since March.*

Ho questa macchina da marzo.

La **domanda** per chiedere la durata di un'azione/situazione è introdotta da "**How long ...?**"

**How long have you been here?**

**Da quanto tempo sei qui?**

=

**Have you been here (for) long?**

**Sei qui da molto tempo?**

**"Da molto tempo"** si rende nei seguenti modi:

- in frasi affermative:  
**for a long time**

*I've been here for a long time.*

Sono qui da molto tempo.

- in frasi interrogative:  
**(for) long**

*Have you been here (for) long?*

Sei qui da molto tempo?

- in frasi negative  
*for a long time* e *(for) long* hanno significati diversi

**Confronta** gli esempi:

*I haven't been here for a long time.*

Non sono venuto qui da molto tempo.

(È passato molto tempo dall'ultima volta che sono venuto qui.)

*I haven't been here (for) long.*

Non sono qui da molto tempo. (È poco tempo che sono qui.)



## Attenzione!!!

La **durata negativa** dell'italiano, in **alternativa** alla costruzione con *for* e *since*, può essere resa con:

**It is ... since + past simple**  
(affermativo)

(vedi a **PAG. 198**)

**Verbi che esprimono un'azione compiuta** (cioè che non esprimono una continuità nel tempo) come: *leave, arrive, start, begin, finish, stop, die, ...* non possono avere la forma di durata con *for* e *since*.

Pertanto frasi come:

È arrivato da un'ora. / È morto da tre mesi.

debbono essere rese in inglese con il **past simple + ... ago**  
*He arrived an hour ago. / He died three months ago.*

- La domanda si forma con **When did ...?** oppure con **How long ago did ...?**

*When did they arrive? / How long ago did they arrive?*

- In **alternativa** si può usare la struttura

**It is ... since ... / How long is it since ...?**

(vedi a **PAG. 198**)

## PRACTICE

1. Completa gli spazi con *for* o *since*. (Rifletti. Quali espressioni indicano il momento di inizio di un'azione? Quali indicano il periodo di durata di un'azione?)

1. .... a long time	6. .... he left	11. .... Monday
2. .... ages	7. .... 4 o'clock	12. .... 2003
3. .... July	8. .... my birthday	13. .... a few months
4. .... a few days	9. .... half an hour	14. .... Christmas
5. .... I was born	10. .... fifteen minutes	15. .... 1 st August

2. Completa le frasi con il *present perfect simple* dei verbi tra parentesi e gli spazi con *for* o *since*.

➤ They (own) **have owned** that house **for** ages.

- I (have) ..... this car ..... August.
- The weather (be) ..... warm and sunny ..... four days.
- I (know) ..... Susan ..... we were children.
- We (not / see) ..... Peter ..... ages.
- That castle (belong) ..... to his family ..... many generations.
- I (not / write) ..... to Jane ..... months.

3. Scrivi *mini-dialoghi* usando le parole fornite. Ricorda di usare *for* o *since* correttamente.

➤ you / have / that scooter? // a long time      A: **How long have you had that scooter?**  
B: **I've had it for a long time.**

- they / be / married? // 1998
- the weather / be / awful / in Paris? // a week
- he / have / that terrible pain in his shoulder? // two weeks
- they / own / that house? // February.

4. Sottolinea l'alternativa corretta.

- I haven't had this pullover **for long / for a long time**. I bought it last week.
- We've been in Italy **for a long time / for long**. We've been here since 1975.
- Have you been here **for a long time / for long**?
- I haven't received a present **for long / for a long time**.
- I haven't been there **for a long time / for long**. The last time I went there was ten years ago.
- We haven't been here **for a long time / for long**. We've only been here for a few minutes.



**Forma:** **It is ... since + past simple** (forma affermativa)

**Uso:** questa costruzione si usa:

<p>• <b>in alternativa</b> ad una forma di <b>durata negativa</b> per mettere in rilievo il tempo trascorso da quando una attività è cessata o è avvenuta l'ultima volta</p>	<p><i>It's two weeks since I last saw Paul.</i> Sono passate due settimane da quando ho visto Paul l'ultima volta / Non vedo Paul da due settimane. = <i>I haven't seen Paul for two weeks.</i> = <i>The last time I saw Paul was two weeks ago.</i></p>
<p>- La domanda "<b>Da quanto tempo non ...?</b>" si rende con : <b>How long is it since ... + past simple ?</b> (forma affermativa)</p>	<p><i>How long is it since you (last) saw Paul?</i> Da quanto tempo non vedi Paul? = <i>When did you last see Paul?</i> Quando hai visto Paul l'ultima volta? = <i>How long ago did you see Paul?</i> Quanto tempo fa hai visto Paul?</p>
<p>• <b>in alternativa</b> a forme con <b>ago</b>, per mettere in rilievo il tempo trascorso da quando un'azione si è verificata</p>	<p><i>It's two months since they left.</i> Sono passati due mesi da quando sono partiti. = <i>They left two months ago.</i> Sono partiti due mesi fa.</p>
<p>- con i <b>verbi che esprimono un'azione compiuta</b> come: <i>leave, arrive, start, finish, stop, die, ...</i></p>	
<p>- La domanda "<b>Da quanto tempo ...?</b>" si rende con la stessa costruzione del caso precedente: <b>How long is it since ... + past simple?</b> (forma affermativa)</p>	<p><i>How long is it since they left?</i> Da quanto tempo sono partiti? = <i>How long ago did they leave?</i> Quanto tempo fa sono partiti?</p>

### PRACTICE

1. Riscrivi le frasi usando la costruzione *It's ... since ...*, come nell'esempio.

- *We haven't been to the cinema for ages.*     *It's ages since we last went to the cinema.*
1. It hasn't rained for two months.
  2. I haven't heard from Paul for two weeks.
  3. Susan hasn't written for two months.
  4. I haven't read a book for a long time.

2. Riscrivi le frasi usando il *present perfect simple*, come nell'esempio.

- *It's three months since he last visited us.*     *He hasn't visited us for three months.*
1. It's a long time since we last saw him.
  2. It's two years since I last smoked.
  3. It's five years since she last ate meat.
  4. It's ages since we last had a holiday.



3. Riscrivi le frasi usando il *past simple* + *ago*, come nell'esempio.

➤ *It's two years since he died.*

***He died two years ago.***

1. It's two months since they left.

3. It's two hours since they arrived.

2. It's ten years since they got divorced.

4. It's three weeks since Mark broke his arm.

4. Riscrivi le frasi usando *It's ... since ...*, come nell'esempio.

➤ *They arrived three weeks ago.*

***It's three weeks since they arrived.***

1. I finished working two hours ago.

3. We played tennis two days ago.

2. They got divorced five years ago.

4. I went to the doctor's a few months ago.

5. Riformula le domande e le risposte come nell'esempio. Ricorda di usare *for* e *since* correttamente.

➤ *"When did she last cook spaghetti?" "Ages ago."*

***"How long is it since she last cooked spaghetti?" "She hasn't cooked spaghetti for ages."***

1. "When did you last have a holiday abroad?" "In 2002."

2. "When did they last ring us?" "A month ago."

3. "When did it last snow?" "In December."

4. "When did you last see John?" "Three weeks ago."

5. "When did we last hear from David?" "Last summer."

6. Riformula le domande dell'esercizio precedente come nell'esempio.

➤ *When did she last cook spaghetti?*

***How long ago did she last cook spaghetti?***

#### SENTENCE TRANSFORMATION (PET)

7. Completa la seconda frase in modo tale che abbia lo stesso significato della prima usando non più di tre parole.

➤ *I haven't heard from Tom for two weeks.// It's two weeks **since I heard** from Tom.*

1. It's three months since I last saw her.

I haven't ..... three months.

2. She hasn't bought a new dress for ages.

It's ages ..... a new dress.

3. The last time we caught a train was four years ago.

It's ..... we last caught a train.

4. I haven't visited my grandparents for a long time.

It's a long time since ..... my grandparents.

5. How long ago did you write to him?

How long is it ..... to him?







- 2** 1. is / 's, is / 's listening; 2. were you, was; 3. Did you watch, didn't like; 4. were having, rang; 5. has won, did he win; 6. were surfing, found; 7. started, were waiting; 8. Did you have, was; 9. Have you finished; 10. don't know, have visited.

- 3** 1. What is / 's she doing?  
2. Where did you go last night?  
3. What were you doing when I phoned you last night?  
4. Who did you invite?  
5. What time do you usually get up?  
6. Where have you been?

## File 24

**A** p. 197

- 1** 1. for; 2. for; 3. since; 4. for; 5. since; 6. since; 7. since; 8. since; 9. for; 10. for; 11. since; 12. since; 13. for; 14. since; 15. since.

- 2** 1. have had, since; 2. has been, for; 3. have known, since; 4. haven't seen, for; 5. has belonged, for; 6. haven't written, for.

- 3** 1. A: How long have they been married?  
B: They've been married since 1998.  
2. A: How long has the weather been awful in Paris?  
B: It's been awful for a week.  
3. A: How long has he had that terrible pain in his shoulder?  
B: He's had it for two weeks.  
4. A: How long have they owned that house?  
B: They've owned it since February.

- 4** 1. for long; 2. for a long time; 3. for long; 4. for a long time; 5. for a long time; 6. for long.

**B** p. 198, 199

- 1** 1. It's two months since it last rained.  
2. It's two weeks since I last heard from Paul.  
3. It's two months since Susan last wrote.  
4. It's a long time since I last read a book.

- 2** 1. We haven't seen him for a long time.  
2. I haven't smoked for two years.  
3. She hasn't eaten meat for five years.

- 3** 1. They left two months ago.  
2. They got divorced ten years ago.  
3. They arrived two hours ago.  
4. Mark broke his arm three weeks ago.

- 4** 1. It's two hours since I finished working.  
2. It's five years since they got married.  
3. It's two days since we played tennis.  
4. It's a few months since I went to the doctor's.

- 5** 1. How long is it since you last had a holiday abroad?  
I / We haven't had a holiday abroad since 2002.  
2. How long is it since they last rang us?  
They haven't rung us for a month.  
3. How long is it since it last snowed?  
It hasn't snowed since December.  
4. How long is it since you last saw John?  
I / We haven't seen John for three weeks.  
5. How long is it since we last heard from David?  
We haven't heard from David since last summer.

- 6** 1. How long ago did you last have a holiday abroad?  
2. How long ago did they last ring us?  
3. How long ago did it last snow?  
4. How long ago did you last see John?  
5. How long ago did we last hear from David?

- 7** 1. seen her for; 2. since she bought; 3. four years since; 4. I visited; 5. since you wrote.



**C** p. 201

1. Mary has been studying for two hours.  
 2. They have been sleeping since two o'clock.  
 3. They have been living in Rome since 2003.  
 4. Paul has been talking on the phone for fifteen minutes.  
 5. It has been raining since Monday.
2. 1. has been typing, X; 2. have been playing, since; 3. have they been waiting, for; 4. have been listening, for.
3. 1. Bob has been repairing the car for half an hour.  
 2. James and Fred have been playing golf for fifteen minutes.  
 3. Michael has been working for four hours.
4. 1. have you been doing; 2. 've been quarrelling;  
 3. have been working; 4. has been snowing; 5. has been cooking; 6. have been playing.

**D** da p. 203 a p. 205

1. 1. have known; 2. has had; 3. has been taking;  
 4. have been; 5. have been waiting; 6. have been working; 7. has been snowing; 8. have been living; 9. have been talking; 10. have owned.
2. 1. How long have they been there?  
 2. How long have you known him?  
 3. How long have they been learning it?  
 4. How long has he been studying?  
 5. How long has she had it?  
 6. How long have they been doing it?
3. 1. have been cleaning; 2. have cleaned; 3. have been peeling the onions; 4. have peeled;  
 5. have been washing; 6. have washed.
4. 1. No, they haven't had a holiday in the mountains for years.  
 2. No, he hasn't used the bus for months.  
 3. No, I haven't sent SMS messages since last Christmas.  
 4. No, she hasn't e-mailed me for weeks.  
 5. No, I haven't phoned her since 1st January.

5. 1. have they arrived; 2. haven't talked; 3. have you spent; 4. have you been waiting; 5. hasn't rung.
6. 1. They haven't won a tournament since 2000.  
 2. How long have you had that jacket?  
 3. We haven't met for a long time.  
 4. Bob has been listening to music all afternoon.  
 5. They have been decorating the sitting room all day.  
 6. It hasn't rained for two months.
7. 1. Have you already decided, 've been talking, haven't decided; 2. has had, has broken; 3. Have you been waiting, 've been queuing, hasn't arrived.
8. 1. have you been doing, have / 've been playing; 2. have / 've been jogging; 3. has / 's just stopped; 4. have you seen; 5. haven't come; 6. Have you ever been, have / 've been; 7. have owned; 8. has had; 9. have / 've been drilling; 10. have / 've been talking; 11. have you been living; 12. have lived; 13. have you visited; 14. has / 's been teaching (anche: has / 's taught); 15. have / 've been typing, have / 've typed.
9. 1. never been to Paris; 2. living here for; 3. typing my curriculum vitae since; 4. has been waiting; 5. has had that car; 6. has just; 7. have been cleaning; 8. first time he has flown; 9. has been cooking; 10. first time she has been.