

VERBS: PERFECT AND PAST TENSE WITH *SINCE / FOR / AGO*

It is necessary to understand the difference in meaning and use of the words since, for, ago. Study the examples.

1. He has worked there since January.
2. He worked there for six months.
3. He has worked there for six months.
4. He came to Canada six months ago.

Since denotes action from some indicated time in the past, up to the present time. Therefore, the present perfect tense of the verb (has worked) is required.

For refers to duration, or length of time. It may be used in the present, past or future tense.

Ago refers to the past tense. It is used only with the past tense.

Exercise 1

In the blanks use since, for or ago, whichever is correct, in accordance with the meaning of the sentence.

1. I met him on Fifth Avenue about two weeks _____.
2. He has been studying English _____ last January.
3. He has been studying English _____ two years.
4. I visited them in Miami about six months _____.
5. He stayed with us _____ about six months.
6. John has lived in that same house _____ many years.
7. They have lived there _____ 1968.
8. She has never been the same _____ he went away.
9. He has been sick _____ several days.
10. She has been sick _____ Wednesday.
11. How long _____ did the accident happen?
12. I haven't seen John _____ last Christmas.
13. We talked _____ about two hours.
14. She has been in the hospital _____ July.
15. He left for Chicago three days _____.
16. I haven't talked with her _____ yesterday.
17. I talked with her _____ a few minutes yesterday.
18. Mr. Smith has been teaching English ever _____ he came to Canada.
19. She first began to teach English about three years _____.
20. She has been teaching English _____ many years.