

The Present Perfect Simple #2

In our previous Tip Sheet – The Present Perfect Simple #1 - we looked at how we use the *Present Perfect Simple* to talk about an event in the past **but** we do not say when it happened:

I've seen Michael Jackson in concert.

She's acted in Hamlet four times.

We can also use the Present Perfect Simple in another way:

To talk about something which started in the past and has not finished.

For example:

I've lived in this house for five years. [= I started to live in this house five years ago and I still live there.]

He's worked at the college since 2008. [He started working at the college in 2008 and he still works there.]

The Present Perfect Simple #2

It started in the past & has not finished



I have lived in Boston for 10 years.
I have been a mother since 2011.

For and Since

Look at how the example sentences use *for* and *since*:

I have lived in Boston for 10 years.

I have been a mother since 2011.

We use **for** to show the time as a number...

for 12 hours

for three days

for a week

for a month

for two years

We use **since** to show the time when something started...

since 6 o'clock

since this morning

since last week

since January

since 2019

Remember how we make the Present Perfect Simple:

Statements

Subject	auxiliary verb	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
I You We They	have	seen eaten drunk
She He It	has	been played cooked

She has played football for Chelsea for three years.

We have lived in Dubai since 2015.

Negatives

Subject	auxiliary verb	negative	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
I You We They	have	not (n't)	seen eaten drunk
She He It	has		been played cooked

I haven't smoked a cigarette for 10 years.

He hasn't seen his mother since February.

Warning!

Be Careful With Your Questions

We prefer to ask questions for this type of Present Perfect Simple with the words "How long..."

	Auxiliary verb	subject	main verb (past participle/Verb 3)
How long	have	I you we they	lived been taught
	has	she he it	learnt played worked

How long have you lived in Boston?

How long has she played the piano?

You can then choose to give your answer with **for** or **since**:

How long has she played the piano?

She has played the piano for eight years.

She has played the piano since 2014.

Are you ready to move on to the next Tip Sheet: The Present Perfect Simple #3?

Regards,

Ian