### 4-2 Present Perfect with *Since* and *For*

(a) *I've been* in class *since* ten o'clock this morning.

(b) *We have known* Ben *for* ten years. We met him ten years ago. We still know him today. We are friends.

The present perfect tense is used in sentences with *since* and *for* to express situations that began in the past and continue to the present.

In (a): Class started at ten. I am still in class now, at the moment of speaking.

**INCORRECT:** *I am in class since ten o'clock this morning.*

(c) \[
\begin{align*}
\text{I have} & \\
\text{You have} & \\
\text{She, He, It has} & \\
\text{We have} & \\
\text{They have} \\
\end{align*}
\]

**been** here for one hour.

**FORM:** *have/has + past participle*

**CONTRACTED FORMS:** *'ve, You've, He's, She's, It's, We've, They've.*

### Since

(d) *I have been here* since eight o'clock.

since Tuesday.

since 2009

since yesterday.

since last month.

*Since* is followed by the mention of a specific point in time: an hour, a day, a month, a year, etc.

*Since* expresses the idea that something began at a specific time in the past and continues to the present.

(e) **CORRECT:** *I have lived here since May.*

**CORRECT:** *I have been here since May.*

(f) **INCORRECT:** *I am living here since May.*

(g) **INCORRECT:** *I live here since May.*

(h) **INCORRECT:** *I lived here since May.*

(i) **INCORRECT:** *I was here since May.*

Notice the incorrect sentences:

In (f): The present progressive is **NOT** used.

In (g): The simple present is **NOT** used.

In (h) and (i): The simple past is **NOT** used.

### MAIN CLAUSE  **SINCE-CLAUSE**

(present perfect)  **(simple past)**

(j) *I have lived here* since I was a child.

(k) *Al has met many people* since he came here.

*Since* may also introduce a time clause (i.e., a subject and verb may follow *since*).

Notice in the examples: The present perfect is used in the main clause; the simple past is used in the *since*-clause.

### For

(l) *I have been here* for ten minutes.

for two hours.

for five days.

for about three weeks.

for almost six months.

for many years.

for a long time.

*For* is followed by the mention of a length of time: two minutes, three hours, four days, five weeks, etc.).

**NOTE:** If the noun ends in *-s* (hours, days, weeks, etc.), use *for* in the time expression, not *since.*

*Also correct: *I have been living here since May.* See Chart 4-6 for a discussion of the present perfect progressive.*
# 4-3 Negative, Question, and Short-Answer Forms

## Negative

| (a) I have not (haven't) seen Tom since lunch. | NEGATIVE: have/has + not + past participle |
| (b) Ann has not (hasn't) eaten for several hours. | NEGATIVE CONTRACTIONS: have + not = haven't has + not = hasn't |

## Question

| (c) Have you seen Tom? | QUESTION: have/has + subject + past participle |
| (d) Has Ann eaten? |
| (e) How long have you lived here? |
| (f) — Have you ever met a famous person?  
  — No, I've never met a famous person. |

In (f): ever = in your lifetime; from the time you were born to the present moment. Questions with ever frequently use the present perfect. When answering questions with ever, speakers often use never. Never is frequently used with the present perfect. In the answer to (f), the speaker is saying: "No, I haven't met a famous person from the time I was born to the present moment."

## Short Answer

| (g) — Have you seen Tom?  
  — Yes, I have. or No, I haven't. |
| (h) — Has Ann eaten lunch?  
  — Yes, she has. or No, she hasn't. |

SHORT ANSWER: have/haven't or has/hasn't

NOTE: The helping verb in the short answer is not contracted with the pronoun.

INCORRECT: Yes, I've. or Yes, he's.

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## Exercise 11. Looking at grammar. (Chart 4-3)

Complete the conversations. Use the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses.

1. A: (you, eat, ever) Have you ever eaten an insect?
   B: No, I haven't. I (eat, never) have never eaten an insect.

2. A: (you, stay, ever) __________________________ in a room on the top floor of a hotel?
   B: Yes, I __________________________. I (stay) __________________________ in a room on the top floor of a hotel a few times.

3. A: (you, meet, ever) __________________________ a movie star?
   B: No, I __________________________. I (meet, never) __________________________ a movie star.

4. A: (Ted, travel, ever) __________________________ overseas?
   B: Yes, he __________________________. He (travel) __________________________ to several countries on business.
### 4-4 Present Perfect with Unspecified Time

Toshi has already eaten lunch.  
Eva hasn’t eaten lunch yet.

| (a) Toshi has just eaten lunch. | The PRESENT PERFECT expresses an activity or situation that occurred (or did not occur) before now, at some unspecified or unknown time in the past. Common time words that express this idea are just, recently, already, yet, ever, never. In (a): Toshi’s lunch occurred before the present time. The exact time is not mentioned; it is unimportant or unknown. |
| (b) Jim has recently changed jobs. | |
| (c) Pete has eaten at that restaurant many times. | An activity may be repeated two, several, or more times before now, at unspecified times in the past, as in (c) and (d). |
| (d) I have eaten there twice. | |
| (e) Pete has already left. or Pete has left already. | In (e): Already is used in affirmative statements. It can come after the helping verb or at the end of the sentence. Idea of already: Something happened before now, before this time. |
| (f) Min hasn’t left yet. | In (f): Yet is used in negative statements and comes at the end of the sentence. Idea of yet: Something did not happen before now (up to this time), but it may happen in the future. |
| (g) Have you already left? Have you left already? Have you left yet? | In (g): Both yet and already can be used in questions. |
Exercise 21. Warm-up. (Chart 4-5)
Read the short conversation. Who is more likely to say the last sentence, Pamela or Jenna?

PAMELA: I’ve traveled around the world several times.
JENNA: I traveled around the world once.
_____ : I’m looking forward to my next trip.

### 4-5 Simple Past vs. Present Perfect

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE PAST</th>
<th>In (a): I finished my work at a specific time in the past (two hours ago).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) I finished my work two hours ago.</td>
<td>In (b): I finished my work at an unspecified time in the past (sometime before now).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRESENT PERFECT</th>
<th>The SIMPLE PAST expresses an activity that occurred at a specific time (or times) in the past, as in (a) and (c).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(b) I have already finished my work.</td>
<td>The PRESENT PERFECT expresses an activity that occurred at an unspecified time (or times) in the past, as in (b) and (d).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SIMPLE PAST</th>
<th>In (e): In sentences where for is used in a time expression, the simple past expresses an activity that began and ended in the past.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(c) I was in Europe last year / three years ago / in 2006 / in 2008 and 2010 / when I was ten years old.</td>
<td>In (f): In sentences with for or since, the present perfect expresses an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>PRESENT PERFECT</th>
<th>In (e): In sentences where for is used in a time expression, the simple past expresses an activity that began and ended in the past.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(d) I have been in Europe many times / several times / a couple of times / once / (no mention of time).</td>
<td>In (f): In sentences with for or since, the present perfect expresses an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<tr>
<th>SIMPLE PAST</th>
<th>In (e): In sentences where for is used in a time expression, the simple past expresses an activity that began and ended in the past.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(e) Ann was in Miami for two weeks.</td>
<td>In (f): In sentences with for or since, the present perfect expresses an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(f) Bob has been in Miami for two weeks / since May 1st.</td>
<td>In (f): In sentences with for or since, the present perfect expresses an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exercise 22. Looking at grammar. (Chart 4-5)
Answer each question and discuss the meanings of the verb tenses in italics.

1. All of these verbs talk about past time, but the verb in (a) is different from the other three verbs. What is the difference?
   (a) I have had several bicycles in my lifetime.
   (b) I had a red bicycle when I was in elementary school.
   (c) I had a blue bicycle when I was a teenager.
   (d) I had a green bicycle when I lived and worked in Hong Kong.

2. What are the differences in the ideas the verb tenses express?
   (e) I had a wonderful bicycle last year.
   (f) I've had many wonderful bicycles.

3. What are the differences in the ideas the verb tenses express?
   (g) Ann had a red bike for two years.
   (h) Sue has had a red bike for two years.

4. Who is still alive, and who is dead?
   (i) In his lifetime, Uncle Alex had several red bicycles.
   (j) In his lifetime, Grandpa has had several red bicycles.
4-6 Present Perfect Progressive

Al and Ann are in their car right now. They are driving home. It is now four o’clock.

(a) They have been driving since two o’clock.
(b) They have been driving for two hours.
They will be home soon.

The PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE talks about how long an activity has been in progress before now.

NOTE: Time expressions with since, as in (a), and for, as in (b), are frequently used with this tense.

STATEMENT:

have/has + been + -ing

(c) How long have they been driving?

QUESTION:

have/has + subject + been + -ing

Present Progressive vs. Present Perfect Progressive

Present Progressive

(d) Po is sitting in class right now.

The PRESENT PROGRESSIVE describes an activity that is in progress right now, as in (d). It does not discuss duration (length of time).

INCORRECT: Po has been sitting in class right now.

Present Perfect Progressive

Po is sitting at his desk in class. He sat down at nine o’clock. It is now nine-thirty.

(e) Po has been sitting in class since nine o’clock.

(f) Po has been sitting in class for thirty minutes.

The PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE expresses the duration (length of time) of an activity that began in the past and is in progress right now.

INCORRECT: Po is sitting in class since nine o’clock.

(g) CORRECT: I know Yoko.

(h) INCORRECT: I am knowing Yoko.

(i) CORRECT: I have known Yoko for two years.

(j) INCORRECT: I have been knowing Yoko for two years.

NOTE: Non-action verbs (e.g., know, like, own, belong) are generally not used in the progressive tenses.*

In (j): With non-action verbs, the present perfect is used with since or for to express the duration of a situation that began in the past and continues to the present.

*See Chart 1-6, Non-Action Verbs, p. 17.
### Present Perfect Progressive

(a) Gina and Tarik are talking on the phone. They *have been talking* on the phone for 20 minutes.

The **Present Perfect Progressive** expresses the **duration of present activities**, using action verbs, as in (a). The activity began in the past and is still in progress.

### Present Perfect

(b) Gina *has talked* to Tarik on the phone many times (before now).

(c) **INCORRECT:** Gina *has been talking to Tarik on the phone many times.*

(d) Gina *has known* Tarik for two years.

(e) **INCORRECT:** Gina *has been knowing Tarik for two years.*

The **Present Perfect** expresses:

1. repeated activities that occur at **unspecified times in the past**, as in (b), or
2. the **duration of present situations**, as in (d), using non-action verbs.

### Present Perfect Progressive and Present Perfect

(f) I *have been living* here for six months. **OR**

(g) I *have lived* here for six months.

(h) Ed *has been wearing* glasses since he was ten. **OR**
    Ed *has worn* glasses since he was ten.

(i) I *have been going* to school ever since I was five years old. **OR**
    I *have gone* to school ever since I was five years old.

For some (not all) verbs, duration can be expressed by either the present perfect or the present perfect progressive.

Examples (f) and (g) have essentially the same meaning, and both are correct.

Often either tense can be used with verbs that express the **duration of usual or habitual activities/situations** (things that happen daily or regularly), e.g., *live, work, teach, smoke, wear glasses, play chess, go to school, read the same newspaper every morning, etc.*
Exercise 41. Warm-up. (Chart 4-8)
Read Karen’s statement. Which sequence of events (a. or b.) is correct?

KAREN: Jane met me for lunch. She was so happy. She had passed her driver’s test.
   a. Jane talked to Karen. Then she passed her test.
   b. Jane passed her test. Then she talked to Karen.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4-8 Past Perfect</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Situation:</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack left his apartment at 2:00. Sue arrived at his apartment at 2:15 and knocked on the door.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) When Sue arrived, Jack wasn’t there. He <strong>had left</strong>.</td>
<td>The <strong>PAST PERFECT</strong> is used when the speaker is talking about two different events at two different times in the past; one event ends before the second event happens. In (a): There are two events, and both happened in the past: <strong>Jack left his apartment. Sue arrived at his apartment.</strong> To show the time relationship between the two events, we use the past perfect (<strong>had left</strong>) to say that the first event (Jack leaving his apartment) was completed before the second event (Sue arriving at his apartment) occurred.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Jack <strong>had left</strong> his apartment when Sue arrived.</td>
<td><strong>FORM:</strong> <strong>had</strong> = past participle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) He’d left. I’d left. They’d left. Etc.</td>
<td><strong>CONTRACTION:</strong> I / you / she / he / it / we / they + ’d</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Jack <strong>had left</strong> before Sue arrived.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Jack <strong>left</strong> before Sue arrived.</td>
<td>When <strong>before</strong> and <strong>after</strong> are used in a sentence, the time relationship is already clear so the past perfect is often not necessary. The simple past may be used, as in (e) and (g). Examples (d) and (e) have the same meaning. Examples (f) and (g) have the same meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Sue <strong>arrived</strong> after Jack had left.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Sue <strong>arrived</strong> after Jack left.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Stella was alone in a strange city. She walked down the avenue slowly, looking in shop windows. Suddenly, she turned her head and looked behind her. Someone <strong>had called</strong> her name.</td>
<td>The past perfect is more common in formal writing such as fiction, as in (h).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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