

Present perfect – for, since

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Present perfect 3

They have lived there for centuries.



THE RICH AND FAMOUS IN LONDON

The rich and famous **have lived** in Marylebone for centuries. Past **residents** include Charles Dickens and the Beatles. Ringo Starr **rented** an apartment at 34 Montagu Square in Marylebone. Jimi Hendrix also lived there. There **hasn't been** a famous resident at 34 Montagu Square **since** the 1960s, but tourists still go to see the building.

Marylebone has been Madonna's favourite place in London for a few years now. The star owns four houses in the same street!



Complete the sentence: Marylebone is a place in _____.

Answer: London

Present perfect 3

- 1 Use the present perfect for a situation which started in the past and continues now.

Marylebone has been Madonna's favourite place in London for a few years now.

past present future

- 2 We can use *for* and *since* with the present perfect.
The rich and famous have lived in Marylebone for centuries.
There hasn't been a famous resident since the 1960s.
- 3 Use *How long ...?* to ask for how much time a situation has continued.
How long has she lived in London?
She has lived in London for a few years.
- 4 We can use *always* with the present perfect.
I've always wanted to live in the city. (= for all the time I can remember)

- ▶ See Units 12 and 13 for other uses of the present perfect.
- ▶ See Unit 12 for the forms of the present perfect.

- 5 Use the present perfect + *for* to emphasise how long a situation has been going on, e.g. *for an hour, for a few days, for a week, for six months, for ages (= for a long time).*

They have lived there for centuries.

- 6 Use the present perfect + *since* to emphasise when a situation began, e.g. *since 12 o'clock, since Monday, since January, since last year, since the 1960s, since she got married.*

The couple have been married since last year.

There hasn't been a famous resident since the 1960s.

TIP

Use the present perfect, not the present, with *since* and *for*.

She has lived here for a few years.

NOT *She lives here for a few years.*

Practice

A Complete each time expression with *for* or *since*.

- _____ *for* _____ a long time.
- _____ two weeks.
- _____ 2003.
- _____ last year.
- _____ three years.
- _____ only a day!
- _____ Christmas.
- _____ I was 12.

Now answer the question.

How long have you lived in your house?

I've lived in my house _____.

B Complete the sentences with the present perfect of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms where possible.

- They *ve always wanted* to visit New York. (always want)
- We _____ my cousins since the beginning of last year. They are always very busy. (not see)
- It _____ a really good summer. I don't want it to end. (be)
- They _____ in the same house all their lives. (live)
- My sister and I share a bedroom. We _____ our own rooms. (never have)
- How long _____ you _____ your mountain bike? (have)
- He _____ his home town. (always love)
- How long _____ she _____ ill? (be)
- He _____ in the same bank for years. (work)
- I _____ he was the best. (always think)

C Ask questions about the celebrities using *How long ...?* and the present perfect.

- Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones are married. *How long have they been married?* _____
- Madonna drives a Mini Cooper car. _____
- Sienna Miller lives in Marylebone. _____
- Paul McCartney plays the piano. _____
- Ringo Starr is a **vegetarian**. _____
- Jennifer Connelly speaks Italian. _____

MY TURN!

Make sentences with the words given and a time phrase which is true for you. Write them in your notebook.

- I / be / hungry
I've been hungry since 9 o'clock this morning. _____
- I / not see / my cousin _____
- I / be / at this school _____
- I / know / my / best friend _____
- I / not do / the washing-up _____
- My family / live / here _____

MY TEST!

Circle the correct option.

- _____ to meet Madonna.
a I always have wanted b I've always wanted c I've wanted always
- We've lived in Marylebone _____.
a for ages b ages ago c since ages
- They've had their flat in Marylebone since they _____ married.
a get b got c have got
- A: How long _____? B: For about six years.
a are they famous b have they been famous c they've been famous
- She _____ London since she was a child.
a isn't visit b didn't visit c hasn't visited

My Test answers: 1b 2a 3b 4b 5c