2B

GRAMMAR BANK

present perfect + *for* / *since*, present perfect continuous

present perfect + *for* / *since*

They've **known** each other for ten years. 2.16
Julia's **had** that bag since she was at university.
A How long **have** you **worked** here?
B Since 1996.
A How long **has** your brother **had** his motorbike?
B For about a year.

- We use the present perfect + *for* or *since* to talk about something which started in the past and is still true now. *They've known each other for ten years.* (= they met ten years ago and they still know each other today)
- We use *How long...?* + present perfect to ask about an unfinished period of time (from the past until now).
- We use *for* + a period of time, e.g. *for two weeks*, or *since* + a point of time, e.g. *since 2016*.
- Don't use the present simple with *for* / *since*. **NOT** ~~*They know each other for a long time.*~~

present perfect continuous: *have* / *has been* + verb + *-ing*

1 How long **have** you **been learning** English? 2.17
Nick **has been working** here since April.
They've **been going out** together for about three years.
2 A Your eyes are red. **Have** you **been crying**?
B No, I've **been** chopping onions.



1 We use the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since* with **action verbs** (e.g. *learn*, *work*, *go*, etc.) to talk about actions which started in the past and are still true now.
- With non-action verbs we use the present perfect simple (**NOT** continuous). **NOT** ~~*They've been knowing each other for ten years.*~~
- Don't use the present continuous with *for* / *since*. **NOT** ~~*I am working here for two years.*~~

2 We can also use the present perfect continuous for continuous or repeated actions which have been happening very recently. The actions have usually just finished or have visibly present results.

I've (I have) You've (You have) He / She / It's (He has) We've (We have) They've (They have)	been working here for two years.	
I haven't (I have not) You haven't He / She / It hasn't (He has not) We haven't They haven't	been working here for two years.	
Have you been working here for two years?	Yes, I have.	No, I haven't.
Has she been working here for two years?	Yes, she has.	No, she hasn't.

live and work
live and *work* are often used in either the present perfect simple or present perfect continuous with the same meaning.
I've lived *here since 2010.*
I've been living *here since 2010.*

a Write sentences in the present perfect continuous.

How long / you / work here?
How long have you been working here?
1 She / study English for three years.
2 How long / they / watching TV?
3 It / rain / since lunchtime.
4 I / not live / here for very long.
5 How long / you / learn to drive?

b Circle the correct form. Tick (✓) if both are possible.

Harry *is* / *has been* unemployed since last year.
1 We've had our new flat *for* / *since* six months.
2 Hi Jackie! How are you? I *haven't seen* / *haven't been seeing* you for ages!
3 How long *have you known* / *do you know* your husband?
4 I've *worked* / *been working* as a teacher for five years.
5 I'm exhausted! *I'm cleaning* / *I've been cleaning* the kitchen for two hours.

c Make present perfect sentences (with *for* / *since* if necessary). Use the continuous form if possible.

I / work for a charity / eight years
I've been working for a charity for eight years.
1 we / know each other / we were children
2 the children / play computer games / two hours
3 your sister / have that hairstyle / a long time?
4 I / love her / the first day we met
5 my internet connection / not work / yesterday
6 how long / you / wait?
7 I / be a teacher / three years
8 it / snow / 5.00 this morning
9 Sam / not study enough recently
10 you / live in London / a long time?

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