

Word focus: for and since

7 Look at the examples and complete the rules. Write *for* or *since*.

for and since

I haven't seen you **since** we left university.

We've been married **for** five years.

Rules:

- 1 We use _____ to say when an activity started.
- 2 We use _____ to say how long an activity has continued.
- 3 We use _____ with a period of time and _____ with a point in time.



We use the present perfect with *since*.

I've worked for the same company since 2006. (I started working for them in 2006 and I still work for them now.)

We can use the present perfect *or* past simple with *for*.

He's had that job for about two years. (He has that job now.)

She worked for a software company for some years. (She has a different job now.)

8 Do we use these words and phrases with *for* or *since*? Divide them into two groups.

2008 two o'clock five years an hour a month
August three weeks a long time I last saw you
a moment we left university a few days ages
they opened the new factory

Frank Hollins

Left the company last year.
Now works for a competitor.

Edward Jones

Wife had another baby
(their sixth). On paternity
leave at the moment.

Claire Parker

Promoted last April. Now the
Regional Sales Director at the
Hong Kong Office.

Louise Johnson

Retired last month. Bought
a holiday home in the
country and now lives there
permanently.

Mary Slawter

Injured her back and had to
have an operation. Came back
to work last week.

Speaking: Updates

9 Work in pairs. Student A: Look at the information below. Student B: Turn to File 31, page 144.

Student A:

Your partner works in your head office in another country, but sometimes they visit your local office. They're going to ask you about some of your colleagues. Use the information in the photo below to answer their questions. Also find out how your partner knows your colleagues and how long they have known them. Read the notes and think about what you will say. You can invent any information you don't have.

Writing: A chance meeting

10 Imagine you met an old acquaintance yesterday. Email a friend and tell them about the meeting.

1 Begin ...

Do you remember _____? I met him/her by chance at/in _____ yesterday.

2 Continue by saying ...

- how he/she has changed.
- what he/she is doing now and how long he/she has done it.
- how you felt about seeing him/her again.

TALKING POINT

- Have you kept in touch with any of your old school/university friends? What have they done since they left?
- Have you ever reconnected with an old friend via a social networking website? What happened?