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Basics: For, Since, and Ago

Easy | A2 | Elementary | Pre-intermediate | Preposition | English Grammar Basics

1. Complete the passive-aggressive sticky note left on the shared apartment fridge. Select the correct word to fill in the blank.

That mysterious green Tupperware container has been sitting on the bottom shelf _____ last November.

Select one.

A) for
B) since
C) ago
D) until

2. Complete the dramatic barista's explanation to a confused customer by choosing the correct word for each blank.

I'm so sorry, but we can't make your cappuccino. Our main espresso machine broke down two hours _____. The manager has been crying in the back room _____ forty-five minutes, and we haven't successfully served a single latte _____ this morning!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) for
B) since
C) ago

Blank 2
A) for
B) since
C) ago

Blank 3
A) for
B) since
C) ago

3. Fill in the blanks in this panicked college student's text messages to a friend before a big exam.

I finally started studying for this biology exam exactly ten minutes _____. I have been staring at the exact same page of my textbook _____ an hour without reading a single word. Honestly, I haven't felt this unprepared _____ my freshman year!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1
A) for
B) since
C) ago

Blank 2
A) for
B) since
C) ago

Blank 3
A) for
B) since
C) ago

4. Help Count Dracula complain to his doctor about his new diet. Choose the correct word to complete his sentence.

I haven't had a proper bite of O-negative blood _____ three centuries!

Select one.

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago
- **D)** during

5. Complete the dramatic roommate's complaint by choosing the correct time word for each blank.

I moved into this apartment exactly six months _____. However, I haven't seen you wash a single dish _____ three entire weeks! Furthermore, you haven't taken out the trash _____ my birthday, and the smell is becoming a science experiment!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** ago
- **B)** since
- **C)** for

Blank 2

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

Blank 3

- **A)** since
- **B)** for
- **C)** ago

6. Help the overconfident applicant finish their cover letter by selecting the best word for each gap.

I started my career as a professional cat-petter ten years _____. I have been petting felines professionally _____ a decade, and I consider myself an absolute expert. In fact, I have not been scratched by a single cat _____ 2015!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** ago
- **B)** for
- **C)** since

Blank 2

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

Blank 3

- **A)** since
- **B)** for
- **C)** ago

7. Help Vlad the vampire update his modern dating profile by choosing the correct time word for each gap.

I am a very loyal partner. In fact, I have been pretending to be a "high school student" _____ eighty years. I haven't seen my best friend Dracula _____ the late 1800s, but we still text. If you like my style, you should know I bought this trendy leather jacket exactly fifty years _____.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

Blank 2

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

Blank 3

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

8. Finish the dramatic teenager's text message to her best friend. Choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

Can you believe he read my message exactly five minutes _____ and still hasn't replied?!

Select one.

- **A)** since
- **B)** for
- **C)** ago
- **D)** before

9. Complete the confused time traveler's diary entry by selecting the correct option for each blank.

I arrived in the year 1885 just two days _____. I have been looking for an electrical outlet to charge my smartphone _____ 48 hours without any luck. My battery has been completely dead _____ Tuesday, and I am starting to panic because I can't check my social media!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** ago
- **B)** for
- **C)** since

Blank 2

- **A)** for
- **B)** since
- **C)** ago

Blank 3

- **A)** since
- **B)** for
- **C)** ago

10. Count Dracula is applying for a graveyard shift job and needs to explain his unusual work history. Review his cover letter and select ALL the sentences that correctly use time expressions. Choose all options that apply.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I have worked the night shift since 1897.
- **B)** I have been unemployed for two centuries.
- **C)** I last saw the sun over four hundred years ago.
- **D)** I retired from my last job since a long time.
- **E)** I have slept in this cozy coffin for 1897.

11. Help the frustrated college student emphasize exactly how long their roommate's unwashed dishes have been sitting in the sink. Select ALL the grammatically correct complaints that apply!

Select all that apply.

- **A)** I have lived with these dirty dishes for three days!
- **B)** He abandoned these dishes in the sink three days ago!
- **C)** These dirty dishes have been here since Monday!
- **D)** I have lived with these dirty dishes since three days!
- **E)** He abandoned these dishes in the sink for three days ago!

12. An amateur wizard is proudly bragging about his magical skills at a party, but his grammar isn't always as perfect as his spells! Select ALL the statements that are grammatically correct. Choose all that apply.

Select all that apply.

A) I started learning spells five years ago.
B) I have practiced the invisibility spell for six months.
C) I have been a certified wizard since last December.
D) I have known how to fly on a broom since five years.
E) I bought my first magic wand for two weeks ago.