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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.