TIME & TENSE · PART 1

How long?

for · since · ago · last

PAU English · Use of English · Transformations

PAU English AI Lab by PedagoIA

WARM-UP

Which one sounds right?

A

I **live** in Seville **for** five years.

B

I **have lived** in Seville **for** five years.

Vote with your hands. Then tell your partner why.

WHY DOES A SOUND RIGHT TO US?

Spanish and English see time differently

ESPAÑOL

Vivo en Sevilla desde hace cinco años.

Presente: «todavía vivo aquí».

ENGLISH

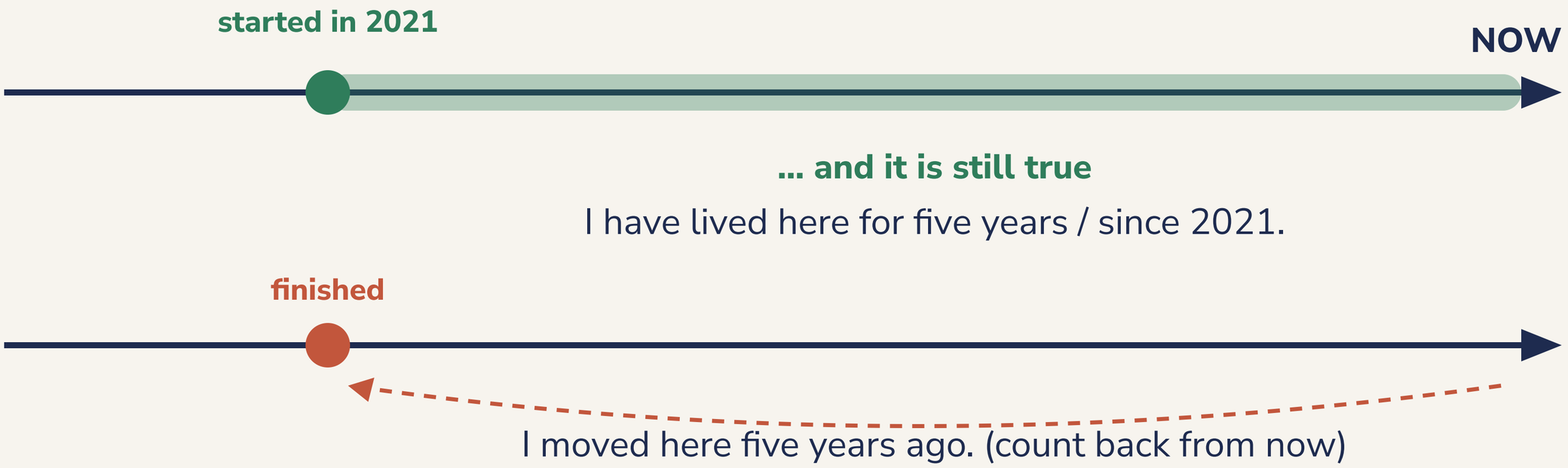
I **have lived** in Seville for five years.

Present perfect: «it started then and it is still true».

B is correct. A is a translation from Spanish, and in the PAU it costs you marks.

PICTURE IT

Two kinds of past



Green line → present perfect + for / since

Red dot → past simple + ago

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THE TRICK

Can you count it, or can you point at it?

for

You can count it

a period of time
how long?

for **three hours** · for **ten years**

since

You can point at it on a clock or a calendar

the starting point
since when?

since **10.00** · since **2019** · since **I was six**

YOUR TURN · 2 MINUTES

For or since?

three years	2019	Monday	a long time
I was a child	ages	last summer	two hours

Write two lists in your notebook. Then compare with your partner.

CHECK

For or since?

for

three years

a long time

ages

two hours

since

2019

Monday

I was a child

last summer

Careful: **last summer** is a point → since last summer.

THE PAU TECHNIQUE

Four steps, one sentence

Natalie **started** revising for tomorrow's test **at 10.00 am**, and she is **still** doing it now.

Given word: SINCE

1 · Find the facts. Started + still → a line that reaches now.

2 · Choose the tense. Present perfect. Revising is an activity → *has been revising*.

3 · For or since? 10.00 am is a point on the clock → *since*.

4 · Copy and check. Keep every detail: *for tomorrow's test*.

✓ Natalie **has been revising** for tomorrow's test **since** 10.00 am.

ONE IDEA, FOUR SENTENCES

The PAU loves to switch between these

LAST	I **last spoke** to her two years **ago**.	past simple + ago
FOR	I **haven’t spoken** to her **for** two years.	present perfect negative + for
SINCE	**It’s been** two years **since** I last spoke to her.	it’s been + period + since + past simple
WAS	**The last time** I spoke to her **was** two years ago.	the last time + past simple + was

PAU PRACTICE · 6 MINUTES

Your turn

1

I started working at this school in 2015.

SINCE

_____

2

We haven’t been to the beach for two months.

LAST

_____

3

It’s three years since I saw my cousin.

FOR

_____

4

Lucía met Pablo when they were at primary school.

KNOWN

_____

CHECK

Answers

1	I **have worked** at this school **since** 2015.	also: have been working
2	We **last went** to the beach two months **ago**.	last = past simple
3	I **haven't seen** my cousin **for** three years.	three years = a period
4	Lucía **has known** Pablo **since** they were at primary school.	know = state verb, never continuous

BE THE EXAMINER

What mark would you give?

It’s three years since I saw my cousin. **(FOR)**

a I haven’t seen my cousin for three years. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

b I haven’t seen my cousin since three years. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

c I didn’t see my cousin since three years. **0,5 · 0,25 · 0 ?**

BEFORE YOU WRITE

Three questions to ask yourself

1 Is it a **line** that reaches now, or a finished **dot**?

2 Can I **count** it (for) or **point at** it (since)?

3 Did I keep the given word and **every detail**?

Homework: PAU English AI Lab → Time & Tense → «For / since / ago / last»