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GRAMMAR - The Present Perfect with “for” and “since” and other uses.

Use “for” and “since” to describe periods of time that began in the past.

For

We use “for” to describe a length of time.

Example: How long have you been there? I've been here for ten minutes.

Example: How long have you been there? I've been here for many years.

Since

We use “since” with a specific time or date in the past.

Example: How long have you been here? I've been here since eight o'clock.

Example: How long have you been here? I've been here since August.

Other uses

- With “always”.

Example: I've always wanted to see Car Planet.

- With ordinals and superlatives.

Example: This is the third time I've seen Ping Pong. It's the best movie I've ever seen.

- With “lately”, “recently” or “just”.

Example: Have you seen a good movie recently/ lately? I've just seen The Beach- what a great movie!

- With “still” or “so far”.

Example: You still haven't seen Tomato Babies? I've seen it three times so far!

Exercise 1. Choose the correct words to complete the paragraph.

I've been a big fan of Penélope Cruz since more than twenty years. I've followed her career since I was in high school. That means I've watched every movie she's made for 1993, except for Vicky Cristina Barcelona. I yet haven't seen that one, but I plan to see it soon. I've always loved Penélope's work. I've always been the first person in line at the theatre when her movies open. Of the movies Penélope has made lately, the most interesting ones to me are To Rome with Love and I'm so excited. I think they're the best movies she's made so far. I've already seen them twice.

Exercise 2. Complete with “for” or “since”.

1. I have been waiting since 4 o'clock.
2. Sue has only been waiting for 20 minutes.
3. Tim and Tina have been learning English for six years.
4. Fred and Frida have been learning French since 1998.
5. Joe and Josephine have been going out together for Valentine's Day.
6. I haven't been on holiday since last July.
7. Mary has been saving her money for many years.
8. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast.
9. You have been watching TV for hours.
10. We have been living here since 2 months.

GRAMMAR - The Present Perfect Continuous.

- The Present Perfect Continuous shows that an action started in the past and is continuing at the present time or has finished recently.

- It is formed using the construction has/have been + the present participle (base form + -ing).

Example: I have been reading War and Peace for a month now.

In this sentence, using the Present Perfect Continuous conveys that reading War and Peace is an activity that began sometime in the past and is not yet finished in the present.

- “Recently” and “lately” are words that we often find with verbs in the Present Perfect Continuous.

Example: Mia has been competing in flute competitions recently. (And she will continue to do so.)

Example: I haven't been feeling well lately. (And I am still sick now.)

- The Present Perfect Continuous can be used with “for” and “since”.

Example: “I've lived here for five years” (emphasis is on the five year period. I still live here, so the action continues).

Example: “ I've been living here since 2001”.

“ I've lived here since 2001” (is also correct but the Present Perfect Continuous emphasizes

the continuing time.)

- Not all verbs are compatible with a continuous action. Some examples of such verbs are to "be", to "arrive", and to "own".

Example: ~~I have been owning my Mazda since 2007.~~

I have owned my Mazda since 2007. (Present Perfect Simple)

Example: ~~Gus has been being late for work recently.~~

Gus has been late for work recently. (Present Perfect Simple)

Exercise 3. Complete each statement with the Present Perfect Continuous.

1. Rio has been playing at the Children's Classic Cinema every Saturday since 2010.
2. Robert has been waiting in the ticket holders' line for a pretty long time.
3. People I've been worrying violence in movies since the sixties.
4. I've been talking about that movie for weeks.
5. We've been coming to this classic movie theatre for two years.

Exercise 4. Put the verbs into the correct form of the Present Perfect Continuous.

1. He working in this company since 1985.
2. I waiting for you since two o'clock.
3. Mary living Germany since 1992.
4. Why is he so tired? He playing tennis for five hours.
5. How long (learn / youEnglish?)
6. We looking for the motorway for more than an hour.
7. I living without electricity for two weeks.
8. The film running not for ten minutes yet, but there's a commercial break already.
9. How long (work / she) _____ in the garden?
10. She (not / be) _____ in the garden for more than an hour.

VOCABULARY



an action film



a horror film



a science-fiction film



an animated film



a comedy



a drama



a documentary



a musical

Exercise 4. Translate to Spanish the vocabulary above.

1. una película de acción
2. una película de terror
3. una película de ciencia ficción
4. una película animada
5. una comedia
6. un drama
7. un documental
8. un musical

GRAMMAR - "Would like", "would rather", "would rather not".

Would like

- We use "would like" + an infinitive to politely express or ask about wants.

Example: Would you like to go to the movies? Yes, I would.

Example: Would she like to see The Dancer? No, she wouldn't.

Would rather

- We use "would rather" + a base form to express or ask about a preference between two or more activities.

Example: Would your children rather see an animated film or an action film?

Example: What would you rather do: go to a movie or a play? I'd rather go to the movie.

Example: She'd rather see a less violent film than Gangs of New York.

Would rather not

- We use "would rather not" + a base form to express a negative preference.

Example: We'd rather not watch TV tonight.

Yes/ no questions

Example: Would you like to see a documentary?

Would they rather stay at home?

Short answers

Yes, I would. / No, I wouldn't.

Yes, they would. / No, they wouldn't OR

No, they'd rather not.

Exercise 5. Write sentences and questions using these words and phrases.

1. They / would like / see / the Woody Allen film.

2. What time / you / would rather / meet?

3. Who / would like / order / eggs for breakfast?

4. they / rather / Would / watch TV or go out?

5. Jason / would like / have / a large container of popcorn.

6. I'd rather / rent / a sci-fi film tonight.

7. Her parents / rather / not / watch /anything too violent.

8. Who'd rather / not / see / that silly animated film?

VOCABULARY - Adjectives to describe movies

Funny= something that makes you laugh

Hilarious= very, very funny

Silly = not serious, almost stupid

Boring= not interesting

Weird= very strange or unusual, in a negative way

Unforgettable= something you are going to remember

Romantic= about love

Thought= provoking= something that makes you think

Violent= bloody, with a lot of fighting and killing

Exercise 6. Write 9 sentences using the vocabulary above.

1.gracioso

2.muy gracioso

3.tonto

4.aburrido

5.raro

6.algo que no puedes olvidar

7.romantico

8.algo que tu piensas

9.violento