Present Perfect: For, Since, Ago

FORM: FOR + length of time SINCE + starting point

time period + AGO

USE:

We often use **FOR** and **SINCE** with the present perfect to talk about things that have continued over a period of time up to the present or the recent past.

Situation: I arrived in this country on Monday. It is now Thursday. We can say:

I <u>have been</u> here for four days. I have been here since Monday.

• We use **for** when we talk about the **duration** of the time: five days, three months, ten years, a short time.

Eric has not had a cigarette <u>for</u> six months. I have taught in Montreal for two years.

• We use **since** when we mention the **starting point** of the period: Monday, two o'clock, May 1st, June, 20___, I was a child, that time.

He has not smoked <u>since</u> March. Since that time, he has gained 15 pounds.

• The starting point of the period can be indicated by an event in the simple past. The main verb uses the present perfect. The second verb, after since, uses the simple past.

My sister <u>has been</u> very sad since she <u>broke</u> up with her boyfriend. I <u>have called</u> home every day since I <u>came</u> to Canada.

• **HOWEVER:** With the word **AGO**, we use the simple past NOT the present perfect.

I came to Ottawa three weeks ago.

She _____ (to phone) an hour ago.

In the following sentences, use either FOR or SINCE.	
1.	Jack has had a cold three days.
2.	She has been climbing the corporate ladder two years.
3.	There have been two major recessions I was born.
4.	I've had my car three years now.
5.	He has felt sick Tuesday.
6.	Have you been here five o'clock?
7.	She has been involved with that guy last April.
8.	They haven't gone to Cuba several years.
In t	the following sentences, choose the correct form of the verb indicated in brackets.
1.	We (to go) to Las Vegas four years ago.
2.	My last car was a Nissan. I (to sell) it nine years ago.
3.	Since I saw that movie, I (to be—negative) able to sleep.
4.	I own a Toyota. I (to have) it for two years.
5.	I (to see) that movie a week ago.
6.	They (to date) for 7 months. I think they will get married next year.
7.	I (to feel) great ever since I (to begin) my diet last mont
8.	My sore throat and cough (to last) for two weeks.

9.

How long have you had your backpack?

Answer the following questions. 1. How long have you been in Canada? 2. How long have you had your watch? 3. How long have you studied English? 4. How long have you lived in your current home town? 5. How long have you had your running shoes?

6.