

# Time constructions

**In English** The **perfect progressive** form of the verb is usually used to talk about an event that began in the past and is still going on now.

The **perfect progressive** is formed by using the construction: **have** (have/has/had) + **been** + the **-ing** form of the verb + **for**.

I **have been studying** Spanish **for** three years.

To tell how long in the past an event happened, use:

**simple past** form of the verb + **time** + **ago**.

Cheri **taught** gymnastics seven **years ago**.

**A** Read each sentence and write on the line whether the action a) took place in the **past** or b) continues in the **present**.

1. Susan has been living here for three months.
2. Those students stayed overnight four months ago.
3. Michelle's family drove across the country two years ago.
4. Jeffrey and Rachel have been singing in the choir for years.
5. The Jacobsens moved about six months ago.
6. I have been calling you for almost ten minutes.

Action  
present

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**In Spanish** Time constructions with **hace** are usually used to talk about an event that began in the past and is still going on now:

**hace** + time + **que** + present form of the verb.

**Hace tres años que estudio** inglés.

To say "ago" you can use either the preterite or the imperfect:

**hace** + time + simple past form of the verb.

Cheri enseñaba gimnasia **hace tres años**.

**Hace diez años**, los Martínez compraron esta casa.

**B** Read each sentence and write on the line whether the action a) took place in the **past** or b) continues in the **present**.

1. Hace tres días, fui a cenar en la casa de mis abuelos.
2. Hace dos años y medio que trabajo en la biblioteca.
3. Hace siete meses que Arnulfo vivía en Miami.
4. Hace un mes que Luisa está en Madrid.
5. Tú participabas en el club hace un año.
6. Fueron al médico hace una semana.

Action  
past

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