

## Depuis, Pendant, Pour - How to say For.

1. **Pendant** – use this when the events are completely in the past ie started in the past and finished in the past.
  - Je suis allé en France pendant deux semaines.
  - J’habitais à Toulouse pendant dix ans.
  - Il avait fumé pendant vingt ans quand il a ...
2. **Pour** – use this when events take place completely in the future.
  - Je partirai pour dix jours.
  - Il m’attendra pour une heure.
  - Elle restera là pour trente minutes.
- 3a. **Depuis and present tense** – translates as « has been –ing » and deals with events that started in the past and ARE STILL CONTINUING.
  - J’habite ici depuis cinq ans.
  - Elle parle français depuis longtemps.
  - Pierre joue de la guitare depuis six mois.
  - Nous sommes en classe depuis trente minutes.
- 3b. **Depuis and imperfect tense** – use this when events started in the past and WERE STILL CONTINUING. Translates as “Had been –ing”.
  - Il mangeait depuis cinq minutes quand ...
  - Elle vivait dans cette rue depuis deux mois quand....
  - Je travaillais depuis une heure quand...
  - Il y logeait depuis deux semaines quand...

### **Answer the following questions using «depuis», «il y a» or «ça fait».**

1. Vous étudiez le français depuis quand ?
2. Il y a longtemps que vous connaissez Jacky et Pierre ?
3. Vous faites de la danse maintenant : depuis combien de temps ?
4. Ça fait longtemps que vous êtes là ?
5. Vous avez mal à la tête maintenant : depuis combien de temps ?

### **Translate into French :**

1. I went there for a month.
2. He waited for two hours.
3. The baby will sleep for an hour.
4. You will travel for a year.
5. I’ve been here for twenty minutes.
6. We’ve been waiting for the bus for a quarter of an hour.
7. She had been driving for only five minutes when the accident took place.
8. Joseph and Maurice had been fighting for a few minutes when their father came in.
9. I have known how to swim for years.
10. Tony Blair has been Prime Minister for 9 years.
11. He was Prime Minister for 11 years.
12. I wonder for how long Gordon Brown will be Prime Minister.
13. I’ve been studying French for six years.
14. I had been studying German for 4 years.
15. She studied Italian for a year.
16. He’s going to study Spanish for 3 years.
17. I would like to work in a bookshop for a few weeks.
18. The lesson had been under way for 5 minutes.
19. He thought about it for a few days.
20. He will go overseas for a month.