

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**.

- | | Action
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. | _____ |

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**.

- | | Action
past |
|---|------------------------|
| 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. | _____ |

TIME CONSTRUCTIONS

C How long has it been since you either **a) did** or **b) have been doing** the following activities? Write sentences using the two different **hace + time** constructions. Then, classify each sentence as belonging to **a** or **b** categories.

1. leer el periódico

Hace ocho horas leí el periódico. (a)

2. estudiar español

3. asistir al colegio

4. ver televisión

5. hablar con tus abuelos

6. viajar por avión

7. vivir en tu casa

8. tener novio(a)

D Translate the following sentences into Spanish.

1. I have been running for twenty minutes.

Hace veinte minutos que corro.

2. Leslie started classes three weeks ago.

3. Michael has been listening to classical music for fifteen years.

4. Jeanine lived in Puerto Rico two years ago.

5. Your mom has been calling for five minutes.
