How long has it been?

Learning Notes

First, reconstruct a sequence when the writer does not list events in time order.

Unit 2 / Two ways of describing time

Starting point	Length of time
since May	for six weeks
since Monday	for three days

Your learning route

01 Work out the order of events p. 1
Choose an anchor ·Place each neighbour

02 Since and for in a report p. 2
Ask when it began ·Ask how long

03 Explain a surprising contrast p. 3
Name the expectation ·Put the facts in order

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Name _____ Class _____

Date _____

01 Work out the order of events

Learning goal Reconstruct a sequence when the writer does not list events in time order.

Key idea

Write each event on an imaginary card. After X, Y means X happened first. Before X, Y means Y happened first. Use both clues to place all three events; their order in the sentence can mislead you.

Worked example

After collecting sticks, we built a shelter. Before collecting sticks, we checked the map.

List the three events from first to last.

1 **Choose an anchor** Collecting sticks appears twice. Put it in the middle of a short timeline.

2 **Place each neighbour** After collecting sticks tells you building happened later. Before collecting sticks tells you checking the map happened earlier.

Worked answer Check the map → collect sticks → build a shelter. The second sentence moves back in time. Put checking before collecting.

Common mistake "Build, collect, check: I kept the sentence order."

Check your thinking The writer can tell events in a different order. Use after and before to decide their places.

Unit 1 • Guided practice

We hung the flag after painting it. Before painting it, we cut the cloth.

List the three events from first to last.

Hint Start with one before or after relationship and add the remaining event.

02 Since and for in a report

Learning goal Distinguish the starting point of an activity from its duration.

Key idea

Since points to the start of a period. For gives its length. Since Monday and for three days answer different questions. A number alone does not decide the word: 2024 is a point on a calendar.

Worked example

I have kept this diary ___ May. My sister has kept hers ___ six weeks.

Fill each gap with since or for. Label the phrase after each gap as a starting point or a duration.

1 **Ask when it began** May is a point on a calendar. Since May answers "When did keeping the diary start?"
2 **Ask how long** Six weeks measures a stretch of time. For six weeks answers "How long has she kept it?"

Worked answer since, starting point; for, duration. May marks the start. Six weeks measures the length.

Two ways of describing time

Starting point	Length of time
since May	for six weeks
since Monday	for three days

Common mistake "I have kept it for May."

Check your thinking May names the starting point here. For needs a length, such as a month.

Unit 2 • Guided practice

The hall has been open ___ ten years. The lift has worked ___ last Tuesday.

Fill each gap with since or for. Label the phrase after each gap as a starting point or a duration.

Hint Could you put the phrase on a calendar, or measure it as a length of time?

03 Explain a surprising contrast

Learning goal Show an unexpected result in one clear sentence.

Key idea

Decide what the reader might normally expect. Use Although with the fact that sets up the expectation. Put the surprising result in the main clause. In a sentence beginning Although, leave out but.

Worked example

The bag was heavy. Kim carried it alone.

Write one sentence beginning Although. Keep both facts and put the unexpected result last.

1 **Name the expectation** A heavy bag might need two people to carry it. That is why Kim carrying it alone is surprising.

2 **Put the facts in order** Although introduces the difficulty. After the comma, write what Kim actually managed to do.

Worked answer Although the bag was heavy, Kim carried it alone. Its weight makes carrying it alone surprising.

Common mistake "Although the bag was heavy, but Kim carried it alone."

Check your thinking Although already introduces the contrast. Begin the second part directly with Kim.

Unit 3 • Guided practice

The path was muddy. The team finished early.

Write one sentence beginning Although. Keep both facts and put the unexpected result last.

Hint Which fact makes the result surprising?

Apply what you learned

Unit 1 • New context

We toasted the bread after slicing it. Before slicing it, we washed our hands. Put the three actions in order.

Unit 2 • New context

I have played chess ___ the autumn term. Bo has played ___ eight months. Choose since or for and label the phrases.

Unit 3 • New context

The path was steep. The children reached the top quickly. Start with Although and keep the surprising result last.

Unit quiz

Instructions Work independently. Show your thinking, then hand your work to your teacher or parent.

Task 1

After tying the parcel, I posted it. I wrote the note before I tied the parcel.

List the three events from first to last.

Task 2

We have practised ___ September. Our coach has helped ___ two terms.

Fill each gap with since or for. Label the phrase after each gap as a starting point or a duration.

Task 3

The map was old. It showed the correct route.

Write one sentence beginning Although. Keep both facts and put the unexpected result last.

Check your practice

Unit 1 Work out the order of events

Guided practice Cut the cloth → paint the flag → hang it. Painting belongs between cutting and hanging.

Application Wash our hands, slice the bread, toast the bread.

Unit 2 Since and for in a report

Guided practice for, duration; since, starting point Ten years is a length; last Tuesday is a starting day.

Application since the autumn term (starting point); for eight months (duration).

Unit 3 Explain a surprising contrast

Guided practice Although the path was muddy, the team finished early. The muddy path would normally slow the team.

Application Although the path was steep, the children reached the top quickly.

Revisit a task Choose one task. Copy a clue or rewrite one part of your answer.