

64. *Depuis / pendant*

1 *Depuis*

- 1.1 In English, when we say we've been doing something for a period of time, or since a specific time or date, we use a **past tense**:

I **have been studying** in Manchester **since** September 2000

We've **lived / been living** in this house **for** ten years

To say the same thing in French, the **present tense** is used. To say you've been doing something since a certain time (as in the first sentence above), use *depuis*:

Je **fais mes études** à Manchester **depuis** septembre 2000

To say you've been doing something for a particular amount of time (as in the second sentence above), also use *depuis*:

Nous **habitons** dans cette maison **depuis** dix ans

In spoken language you can also use *ça fait ... que*, but note the difference in word order:

Ça fait dix ans **que** nous **habitons** ici.

- 1.2 These tense rules do not apply where a negative is involved. Instead the tenses used are the same as in English:

Je ne l'**ai** pas **vu** depuis octobre

I haven't seen him since October

Ça fait longtemps que je n'**ai** pas **fait** de ski

I haven't done any skiing for a long time

Also, the English expression *It's been* + [time period] + *since* + **affirmative** verb is translated by *Ça fait* + [time period] + *que* + **negative** verb:

It's been a year **since I've been to France**

*Ça fait un an que je n'**ai pas visité** la France*

It's been 5 years since we last met

*Ça fait 5 ans que nous **ne nous sommes pas revus***

2 *Pendant*

- 2.1 When you wish to say in French that you did something for a period of time and that you're not doing it any more, use *pendant*. The tenses used are **the same as in English**.

J'**ai** fait mes études à Manchester **pendant** quatre ans

I studied in Manchester for four years

- 2.2 *Pour* is generally used instead of *pendant* when expressing a proposed duration in the future:

Je vais à Manchester **pour** une semaine

I am going to Manchester for a week

Je suis à Manchester **pour** une semaine

I'll be in Manchester for a week