

Les prépositions de temps

- **Pour - Pendant / For**

Pour is used when the period of time is later on in the **future**.

Pendant is usually used for a period during which something happened. It is used with a **past tense** for completed actions.

Both **Pour** and **Pendant** are translated by **For**

- Je vais à Paris **pour** une semaine. *I am going to Paris for a week.*
- J'ai visité Dublin **pendant** un mois. *I visited Dublin for a month.*

- **Il y a / Ago**

We use **Il y a** to describe how long ago an action took place.

- Je suis allé à Paris **il y a** deux ans. *I went to Paris two years ago.*

- **Depuis / Since – For**

Depuis is used when the action described is still going on in the present time. It is then used with the present tense in French and the present perfect in English

- Mary travaille à Paris **depuis** un an - *Mary has been working in Paris for one year.*

It is also used to describe an action that had a certain length/progression in the past until it was interrupted by another action.

It is then used with the imperfect in French and the pluperfect in English.

- Mary **voyageait** dans le monde entier **depuis** un an quand elle a rencontré Philippe.
Mary had been travelling in the world for one year when she met Philippe

Finally, **depuis** is used with a date/special event, to indicate when exactly you did something for the last time. In that case, it has to be used with the perfect tense (*passé composé*), and is translated by **Since**.

- Je n'ai pas vu Elodie **depuis** Noël - *I haven't seen Elodie since Christmas*

Exercice 1

Fill in the text with pendant, depuis, il y a or pour :

Julie et Sophie se connaissent _____ longtemps. Elles ont travaillé ensemble _____ neuf mois à Bruxelles. Sophie aime son nouvel appartement : elle y habite _____ un mois seulement. Thomas et Sophie ont vécu ensemble _____ deux ans. Ils se sont rencontrés _____ quatre ans. Thomas est toujours à l'université : il fait des études de médecine _____ cinq ans. Après cela, il va travailler dans un hôpital _____ deux ans. Il a fait son service militaire _____ cinq ans.

Après leur mariage, Sophie et Thomas vont continuer à habiter Paris _____
deux ou trois ans.

Exercice 2

Translate the following sentences into French :

1. I have been a waiter for one year.

2. I went to Spain two years ago.

3. He hasn't studied French for a long time.

4. Paul stayed in New York for six months.

5. Next year, I will stay in France for two months.

6. I haven't seen my parents since Christmas.

