

# Opposites attract!

How long have you known your best friend? If you've been friends since you were little, maybe you haven't noticed that you've grown in different ways over the years. But who cares? There's no reason why opposites can't be good friends—as these famous friendships show:



1

The two of you have been friends for a long time, but a few years ago your friend started getting better grades than you at school, or he developed an amazing talent. But you aren't jealous of him. You've always admired your friend and you've had some great times together. You're sensible and practical, and your friend needs somebody like that.

**FAMOUS FRIENDS:**  
Sherlock Holmes  
and Doctor Watson

2

You've had the same best friend since elementary school. Your friend is louder and more rebellious than you, so they get all the attention. You're quieter and a bit of a geek\*. Your friend can get you into trouble and you sometimes get mad at each other, but nobody knows you like they do. And you've had a secret crush on their brother or sister for years!

**FAMOUS FRIENDS:**  
Bart Simpson and  
Milhouse Van Houten

3

You and your friend are similar in every way —except your gender. This difference has never been important to you, but for some reason, it matters a lot to other people. Since you became teenagers, others have tried to make you a couple, but you insist on dating other people. You're perfect together —as friends!

**FAMOUS FRIENDS:**  
Harry Potter and  
Hermione Granger

4

OK, not literally, but sometimes it seems this way! You're very different, but something happened in the past that still connects you. You and your friend have shared a lot of experiences. Sometimes you have arguments, but you always make up. Since you met this friend, you've learned a whole new way of communicating!

**FAMOUS FRIENDS:**  
Han Solo and  
Chewbacca

\* geek = a person who doesn't always know what to do in social situations

## Talk about the duration of ongoing situations

1 Which of these sentences is in the present perfect?

- a I've met Steve.
- b I'm meeting Steve.
- c I met Steve.

How do we form the present perfect?



### Fun fact

A survey has discovered that the average Facebook user has 155 "friends," but would only trust four of them to help in a crisis.

2 036 **Read and listen** Match the headings a–d with the paragraphs 1–4 in the text. Then listen and check.

- a Your friend is the opposite sex
- b Your friend is from another planet
- c Your friend is a genius
- d Your friend is more outgoing than you

3 **Pairwork** Do you have a similar personality to your friends, or are you very different? What do you think about the idea that 'opposites attract'?

## Present perfect with *for* and *since*

- 4 Look at the **highlighted** sentences in the text. Complete the rules with the words in the box.

for have how long since

### Present perfect with *for* and *since*

Use the present perfect (I  + past participle) to talk about the duration of a situation which began in the past and continues in the present.

Use the present perfect with

- 1  to give the starting point of the situation.
- 2  to give the total period of time.
- 3  to ask about the duration of a situation.

We've lived here *since 2005*. NOT ~~We live here from 2005.~~

### Rules p.W14

- 5 Complete the sentences with the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses and *for* or *since* where necessary.

- I  (have) this cell phone  a few weeks.
- Jesse  (not study) English  June.
- You  (be) at the market  eight o'clock.
- We  (be) vegetarian  two years.
- How long  (your mother / work) in a hospital?
- They  (not see) Anna  Christmas.

- 6 Write the expressions in the box in the mind map. Can you add any others?

May 1<sup>st</sup> six years 10 minutes my birthday  
lunchtime ages a long time half an hour  
nine mfnths yesterday last summer I was a child



- 7 Rewrite the sentences using the present perfect with *for* or *since*.

- Jasmine started wearing glasses two years ago.
- My grandparents got married in 1968.
- My sister got married in September.
- The last time we talked to Mauricio was Monday.
- Kelly started liking Nick a few weeks ago.
- They went on vacation a week ago.

## Talking about ongoing situations



- 8 037 Listen to the beginning of the radio show *BFF Challenge* and answer the questions.

- How long have Jack and Sophie been friends?
- When did Jack and Sophie meet?

- 9 038 Listen to the rest of the show and write Jack's answers. Then check (✓) the answers he got right or write Sophie's answers if he got them wrong.

	Jack says ...	Sophie says ...
How long has Sophie lived at her current address?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How long has Sophie had her dog?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When did Sophie get her dog?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
How long has Sophie played the guitar?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- 10 **Pairwork** Try to guess your partner's answers to the questions. Then ask and answer. How many did you get right?

### How well do you know your classmate?

#### How long have you ...

- known your best friend?
- been awake today?
- lived in your town / city?
- lived in your house?
- been a student at this school?
- studied English?
- had long / short hair?
- had your favorite possession?
- been a fan of your favorite band / team?

How long have you known your best friend?

I've known my best friend, Stefano, since I was five years old / for ten years.

That's what I thought!