

A snowy morning in Wisconsin (Grammar)

Description: A walk around activity to practice sentence transformation.

Use with or after: *English Network 3 (New Edition)*, Unit 5, Step 2.

Skill: Grammar

Focus: Sentences using the present perfect progressive with *for* and *since*.

Time: 15 minutes

Preparation:

- Print out the second and third pages of this file, on stiff paper if possible.
- Cut along the dotted lines to obtain sixteen cue cards.
- If you have more than sixteen students, print out one of the pages again and use some of the cards twice. If you have a smaller group, make a selection using more or less equal numbers of *for* and *since* cards.

Procedure:

- Write on the board: *It's ten o'clock on a cold winter morning in the town of Fenwood, Wisconsin, USA.* You could also draw a clock on the board, with the hands pointing to ten o'clock.
- Below that, write an example: *It has been snowing since midnight.* → *Yes, it has been snowing for ten hours.* (Elicit the second sentence from the class before you write it.)
- Also write the reverse example on the board: *It has been snowing for ten hours.* → *Yes, it has been snowing since midnight.* (Mention that short forms are also acceptable: *it's been snowing ...*)
- Explain that the sentences in this activity are all about what has been going on this morning in this small American town. Sentences with *for* should be changed to *since*, and visa versa.
- Give each student one of the cue cards. Ask them to stand up, walk around and talk to one person at a time. At each encounter, they should read out the first sentence on the card, and check that the other person says the correct second sentence, following the patterns on the board.



Charlie, the short-order cook in the Crossroads Diner, has been frying bacon and eggs for four and a half hours.

Yes, he has been frying bacon and eggs since five thirty.



Harry Schulz has been driving the snowplow* for four hours.

Yes, he has been driving the snowplow since six o'clock.

* *Snowplow* is the American spelling. In Britain it would be *snowplough*.



Frank, the mayor's nineteen-year-old son, has been trying to repair his car for two and a half hours.

Yes, he has been trying to repair his car since seven thirty.



Hank, a truck driver from Milwaukee, has been driving through the snow for six hours.

Yes, he has been driving through the snow since four o'clock.



Mary Lou, the waitress in the Crossroads Diner, has been serving breakfast since five o'clock this morning.

Yes, she has been serving breakfast for five hours.

The Mayor and the Police Chief have been drinking coffee in the Crossroads Diner since eight thirty.

Yes, they have been drinking coffee for an hour and a half.

Mr. Simon, the bank manager, has been waiting patiently since nine o'clock for someone to come into the bank.

Yes, he has been waiting for an hour.

Cindy, the mayor's sixteen-year-old daughter, has been in love since eight o'clock yesterday evening.

Yes, she has been in love for fourteen hours.



Miss Plunket, the librarian, has been shoveling* snow in front of the library for half an hour.

Yes, she has been shoveling snow since nine thirty.

* *Shoveling* is the American spelling. In Britain it would be *shovelling*.



Mrs. Bailey, the teacher, has been teaching math* since nine fifteen.

Yes, she has been teaching math for forty-five minutes.

* *Math* is an American word for mathematics. In Britain it would be *maths*.



The schoolchildren have been looking out the window at the snow for forty-five minutes.

Yes, they have been looking out the window since nine fifteen.

John Jones, an overweight tourist from Chicago, has been sneezing since nine forty.

Yes, he has been sneezing for twenty minutes.



Homer Jenkins, who is never happy about anything, has been complaining about the snow for three hours.

Yes, he has been complaining about the snow since seven o'clock.

Mrs. Fenway, who is not very healthy, has been coughing since ten o'clock last night.

Yes, she has been coughing for twelve hours.



Doc Lewis, a retired veterinarian, has been reading the newspaper for twenty-five minutes.

Yes, he has been reading the newspaper since nine thirty-five.

John Sanders, the mailman*, has been walking through the snow since eight o'clock.

Yes, he has been walking through the snow for two hours.

* In Britain he would be called a *postman*.

