

Duration Form

Present Perfect	Past Perfect	Present Perfect Continuous	Past Perfect Continuous
have/has + past part.	had + past participle	have/has + been + -ing form	had + been + -ing form
<i>Conoscono Gina dal 1990.</i>	<i>Conoscevano Gina dal 1990.</i>	<i>Gioca a tennis da anni.</i>	<i>Giocava a tennis da anni.</i>
to know → no -ing form ¹ since = da + data, anno, mese, orario, quando...		to play → -ing form	for = da + periodo di tempo
They have known Gina <u>since</u> '90.	They had known Gina <u>since</u> '90.	He has been playing tennis <u>for</u> years.	He had been playing tennis <u>for</u> years.
<i>Non scio da molto tempo.</i>	<i>Non sciavo da molto tempo.</i>	<i>Non scio da molto ma sono già stanco!</i>	<i>Non sciavo da molto ma ero già stanco</i>
real negative sentence	for a long time = da molto tempo	false negative sentence	for long = da molto
I haven't skied <u>for a long time.</u>	I hadn't skied <u>for a long time,</u>	I haven't been skiing <u>for long but I'm...</u>	I hadn't been skiing <u>for long but I was...</u>
<i>Ho scritto 40 mail fino ad ora.</i>	<i>Avevo scritto 40 mail fino ad allora.</i>	<i>Ho scritto mail tutto il giorno.</i>	<i>Avevo scritto mail tutto il giorno.</i>
focus: the result of the action		focus: the duration of the action	
I have written 40 e-mails up to now	I had written 40 e-mails up till then.	I have been writing e-mails <i>all day.</i>	I had been writing e-mails <i>all day.</i>

¹STATIVE VERBS without -ing form

mental state or opinion		sentiments and will		invol. sensory perception		possession		stable characteristics	
to believe	<i>credere</i>	to dislike	<i>non piacere</i>	to feel	<i>qvere la sensazione</i>	to belong	<i>appartenere</i>	to appear	<i>apparire</i>
to imagine	<i>immaginare</i>	to hate	<i>odiare</i>	to hear	<i>udire</i>	to contain	<i>contenere</i>	to be	<i>essere</i>
to know	<i>sapere</i>	to like	<i>piacere</i>	to look	<i>sembrare, apparire</i>	to have (got)*	<i>avere</i>	to consist of	<i>consistere</i>
to mean	<i>intendere</i>	to love	<i>amare</i>	to see*	<i>vedere</i>	to include	<i>includere</i>	to look like	<i>assomigliare</i>
to recognise	<i>riconoscere</i>	to need	<i>aver bisogno di</i>	to smell	<i>odorare</i>	to own	<i>possedere</i>	to seem	<i>sembrare</i>
to remember	<i>ricordare</i>	to prefer	<i>preferire</i>	to sound	<i>suonare</i>	*NOT to have a shower, a swim, breakfast ...			
to suppose	<i>supporre</i>	to want	<i>volere</i>	to taste	<i>avere sapore di</i>				
to think*	<i>pensare</i>	to wish	<i>desiderare</i>						
to understand	<i>capire</i>								

* NOT when it means *rimuginare, meditare*

*NOT when it means *incontrare, visitare*

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