

1

DEPUIS - PENDANT - POUR - IL Y A EXPRESSIONS OF TIME LESSON GUIDE

Lesson Highlights - Click for Video Lesson

DEPUIS

If an event began in the past and continues into the present, use **depuis** with the **present tense**.

I have been living in France for five years.	J'habite en France depuis cinq ans.
---	--

Depuis

PENDANT

Pendant literally means “during”, but it is usually best expressed in English as 'for' followed by an amount of time. It can be used with **all tenses**.

We will be in Italy for two weeks.	On sera en Italie pendant deux semaines.
---	---

Pendant

Pendant is used with the **passé composé** to indicate how long an activity lasted. **Be careful not to use depuis with the passé composé.**

We waited for you for thirty minutes.	Nous t'avons attendu pendant trente minutes.
--	---

Pendant

POUR

Pour can be used in a variety of contexts. When we translate it to mean 'for' in English, it can be used to designate the duration of a future event with the verbs **partir and aller**. Note that the verb may be conjugated in either the **present or future tenses**. If you want to use these verbs in the past you need **pendant**.

We are going on vacation for 2 days.	On part en vacances pour 2 jours.
We will go on vacation for 2 days.	On partira en vacances pour 2 jours.
We went on vacation for 2 days.	On est parti en vacances pendant 2 jours.

Pour

IL Y A

Il y a means ‘there is’ or ‘there are’, but it can also indicate the amount of time passed between a **completed action** and the moment that you're speaking. It means **ago** in English.

I talked to my aunt a few days ago .	J'ai parlé à ma tante il y a quelques jours.
---	---

Il y a

ASTUCE DE JENNIFER

The present perfect continuous tense in English, formed with have/has been and the -ing form of the verb does not exist in French. You need to use the present tense + DEPUIS



Your French teacher in the
South of France

Copyright @ 2019 Love Learning Languages

ASTUCE DE JENNIFER

You can only use POUR to designate an amount of time if you are using the verbs ALLER and PARTIR. Use the present or future tenses. If speaking in the past you must use PENDANT with these verbs.

2

DEPUIS - PENDANT - POUR - IL Y A EXPRESSIONS OF TIME LESSON GUIDE

Examples from the lesson



I've been in Switzerland for 3 weeks.	Je suis en Suisse depuis 3 semaines.
I am going to Switzerland for 3 weeks.	Je vais en Suisse pour 3 semaines.
I always went to Switzerland for 3 weeks.	J'allais toujours en Suisse pendant 3 semaines.
I was in Switzerland 3 weeks ago.	J'étais en Suisse il y a 3 semaines.



It has been raining for two days.	Il pleut depuis 2 jours.
-----	POUR can't be used with pleuvoir
It rained for two days.	Il a plu pendant 2 jours.
It rained two days ago.	Il a plu il y a 2 jours.



I have been at the park for half an hour.	Je suis au parc depuis une demi-heure.
I will go to the park for half an hour.	J'irai au parc pour une demi-heure.
I went to the park for half an hour.	Je suis allé(e) au parc pendant une demi-heure.
I was at the park half an hour ago.	J'étais au parc il y a une demi-heure.



He has been going to France every summer for three years.	Il part en France tous les étés depuis trois ans.
He will go to France for three years.	Il partira en France pour trois ans.
He always went to France for three years at a time.	Il partait toujours en France pendant trois ans à la fois.
He went to France three years ago.	Il est parti en France il y a trois ans.



The baby has been crying for an hour.	Le bébé pleure depuis une heure.
-----	POUR can't be used with pleurer
The baby cried for an hour.	Le bébé a pleuré pendant une heure.
The baby was crying an hour ago.	Le bébé pleurait il y a une heure.

ASTUCE DE JENNIFER

Remember not to use DEPUIS with the passé composé.

PENDANT can be used with any tense.



Your French teacher in the South of France

ASTUCE DE JENNIFER

When IL Y A means AGO you have to use it in the past tense.

Any past tense form will work!